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PAGE 23
making LIFE easier...

WHAT HAPPENED TO WALES? BACK PAGE COMMENT BY DON JOHN. See page 40

'ENOUGH ADVENTURES FOR MANY A LIFETIME!'

Paratrooper Eric (90) is honoured by France!

MR Eric Barley of Bridgend, aged 90, was a recipient of la Légion d'honneur – awarded by the French government at a ceremony at The Pier Head Building in Cardiff.

by RANDELL JOHN

The medal ceremony was attended by many local dignitaries and the medal was personally awarded to Mr Barley by France's ambassador to the UK, Sylvie Bermann. Eric originally joined The Welch Regiment at the age of 18 in December 1942, and during his basic training answered the call for volunteers to join one of the new elite parachute regiments.

On completion of his jump training, and on the eve of the D-Day landings, Eric and his comrades took off from Weevil Aerodrome near Gosport, heading for 'Fortress Europe' and the Normandy town of Rainville.

Landing in pitch darkness at approx 1am, Eric and his fellow paratroops mustered together and marched off to engage the enemy.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)

BIG NIGHT FOR 26 LOCAL CHARITIES

Photograph by GLYN EVANS.

A total of 26 charities were beneficiaries from cash raised at Porthcawl Carnival and at the Porthcawl Christmas Swim. Pictured above are the carnival and swim committees, with John Abraham of Porthcawl RNLI – the swim's nominated main charity. (See more pictures and a report on pages 6 and 7.)

NEW CONSERVATION AREA IS PLANNED FOR PORTHCAWL

PORTHCAWL residents are being invited to a public exhibition – to find out more about proposals to extend the Porthcawl conservation area.

Originally designated in 1973, the area covers a section of the town that contains buildings which are considered to have a special architectural or historic interest.

Now, Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) has launched a public consultation on plans to extend the Porthcawl conservation area to also include John Street, Hillsborough Place and Esplanade Avenue and Picton Avenue.

A BCBC spokesman said: "Having such a status means that developments in the area are subject to tighter design controls and planning guidance.

"For example, consent is needed before any buildings in the area are demolished, while permission also needs to be gained before works are carried out on any trees."

An exhibition will be held in the foyer at the Grand Pavilion from Monday, February 15 until Friday, February 26.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)

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READERS' LETTERS

Lessons of a union levy...

UNTIL 1911, MPs were not remunerated and, as a result, Parliament was inhabited by the rich and privileged and those with private incomes.

The fledgling Labour Party in those times organised a levy on union members to support their MPs – that is, until the House of Lords decided to ban the practice.

This was too much for men of conscience and, in 1911, David Lloyd George introduced a payment of £400 per annum. I was reminded of this on hearing the news that Welsh Conservative leader, Andrew RT Davies AM, had declared that he would cut the pay of ministers in the Welsh Assembly if the Tories gain power in the elections next May.

Conservatives always know the cost of everything and the value of nothing.

If they gained power, how long would it be before they cut the pay of ordinary AMs, to make it more difficult for aspiring members of other parties without private incomes to seek to serve as an Assembly member? I shall be voting for UKIP.

David Thomas, Brynna.

'Let's keep our Sunday special!'

LOCAL shopworkers are very concerned about UK Government plans to devolve Sunday trading hours to councils, and the effects that will have on family life, local shops and the community.

The change could lead to large shops opening for longer, even though they are already trading for up to 150 out of 168 hours a week, so shopworkers will have even less time to spend with their families.

It won't help small stores, who are already allowed to open whenever they like, and may put some of them out of business.

This is a solution looking for a problem that doesn't exist. It isn't even clear who is actually calling for this change, with many retailers opposing it.

The Sunday Trading Act is a great British compromise, which has worked well for over 20 years and gives everyone a little bit of what they want.

Retailers can trade, customers can shop, staff can work; whilst Sunday remains a special day, different to other days, and shopworkers can spend some time with their family.

We encourage your readers to let their MP know what they think, so their vote in Parliament reflects local views.

John Hannett,
General Secretary, Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers (USDAW).

'Bedroom tax proves label'

ON the off chance that there are still some pockets of UK civilisation who have difficulty in understanding why the Tories should be labelled the 'nasty party', then I would suggest a few moments' consideration regarding the happenings recently, when judges in the Court of Appeal ruled the 'Bedroom tax' policy discriminated against victims of domestic violence and disability, may be of assistance in giving some enlightenment to the above mentioned doubters.

The immediate reaction from the Government of the fifth greatest country (economically) in the world was to subject the beneficiaries of this ruling to even more misery and hardship by appealing!

Those of us with slightly better than average memories will recall that this policy was inspired by Ian Duncan Smith, the man who claimed it was easy to get by on weekly benefits.

Colin M James, Barry.

YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE COMMUNITY NEWS IN AND AROUND YOUR AREA...

Caring choir

OGMORE Valley male voice choir is this week entertaining Aberkenfig Women's Institute with a concert in their monthly meeting.

It is the only choir I have heard of that goes around schools putting on a concert while at the same time (as most choristers are ex miners or from mining families) they bring along mining equipment to demonstrate to the children the importance of Wales' industrial past.

It also regularly visits old people's homes to entertain residents.

The choir rehearses on Thursdays from 7pm, and welcomes visitors and prospective new members.

Litter menace

I AM disturbed at the amount of litter appearing on open ground along Heol Cwrdy between the river Ogmore and Clos Tyn Y Coed, Sarn.

There are railings preventing access to this land and it is becoming a feeding ground for rodents, with the risk of disease.

Heol Cwrdy is a major route for pupils going to and from home to attend a local comprehensive school.

Young singers

I WAS invited to listen to all the Welsh Young Singer of the Year competitors hoping to reach the final event at Maesteg town hall on Saturday, April 2.

This event, organised by the Maesteg Gleemen male choir and sponsored by Dunraven Windows Ltd, is open to singers between the ages of 11 – 30 studying classical singing on a full/part time basis.

The winner of the 19 – 30 category will receive a prize of £2,500 and a personal trophy. All other finalists will receive a personal trophy and a runner-up prize of £500 each for the 19 – 30 category.

The adjudicators were Beverley Humphries, Suzanne Hodges, Brian Payne, and Alun Hodges and two contrasting pieces were required from each competitor, plus a short interview with the adjudicators.

The quality of singing by all the competitors was outstanding and I certainly didn't envy the adjudicators their task.

The finalists were as follows: Alys Roberts (soprano) from Criccieth, Robert Lewis (tenor) from Welshpool, Eirlys Myfanwy Davies (mezzo) from Llanelli; reserve Meilir Jones (baritone) from Anglesey.

NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM:
If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me.
I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: CLIVE MITCHELL
1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ
TEL: 01656 725399
email: tynycoed1@yahoo.co.uk

Tondu awards

TONDU Primary School welcomes families of pupils under three to the nursery in Heol Persondy, Aberkenfig on Wednesdays from 9.30am to 10.30am.

The Helping Hands project is restarting at the nursery on Tuesday mornings.

The following pupils were rewarded for their good manners in the autumn term, at Bryngarw Country Park on January 21.

Mrs Jones'/Mrs Richards' class Afan: Rhys Warner, Tia Lloyd.

Miss Morgan's class Cynffig: Harri Readon, Isabelle Thomas.

Mrs Woolls' class Ewenni: Dallas Ludlow Huntley, Darcie Hayes.

Mrs Pugh's class Garw: Kaylen Alston, Elliot Zhang.

Mr Lewis's class Llynfi: Bethan Hopkins, Anwen Thomas.

Miss Davies' class Ogwr: Josie Chan, Maddie Evans.

Mrs Lucas' class Rhondda: Lillie-Eve Cronin, Maisie Fahey.

Mrs Russell's class Taf: Ethan Baker, Lara Morris.

Mrs James's class Tawe: Jessica Evans, Brooke Hawkins.

Miss Mahoney's class: Tegan Chambers, Molly Price.

The following pupils took part in the debate to show 'Show Racism the Red Card' at the Civic Offices, Bridgend; they were Harri Gould, Benji Lock, Teigan Parsons and Molly Price, (accompanied by Miss Morgan the teacher).

Pupils' prizes

EACH week, a pupil from every class at Tynyrheol Primary School, Llangeinor is given an award for an item of work decided on by the pupils. This one was for reading. Winners: class 1 Mercy Wilson; class 2, Levi McCormick; class 3, Darcey Bater.

Stars awarded: nursery – Oliver Walker (for always being polite). Reception – Zach Thomas (for trying hard to underwrite). Year-1 – Sophie Jones (for always working independently). Year-2 – Iestyn Riddiford (for always giving 100 per cent). Year-3 – Erin Quigley (for perseverance in mathematics). Year-4 – Logan McCormick (for improving handwriting). Year-5 – Gethin Geest (for drawing in his homework). Year-6 – Madison Parry (for improvement in presentation of work).

The headteacher's award went to Taylor McCann, for his perseverance in gaining confidence with swimming.

The hard working PTFA is holding a Valentine discotheque at the Richard Price Centre tomorrow (February 12) from 7pm to 10pm; entry is £2 per child, which includes a bag of sweets and a drink. There is free entry for adults.

Wildlife Trust

THE nature reserve at Parc Slip, Tonduis looking for volunteers to improve the habitat for the lapwing, a bird which is in serious decline in the UK.

New volunteers should meet in the coffee shop at the visitor centre on Friday, February 12 at 10am.

On February 13 there will be special Valentine's wildlife day between 12pm and 4pm, where you will be able to make gifts suitable for the garden and decorate tasty treats for the people you love.

Christian Aid

TO raise funds for starving people throughout the world, members of churches in Aberkenfig and District will be selling lunches at different venues throughout the area, this Saturday, February 13.

Members of All Saints' church, Pen-y-fai will be preparing lunches in Smyrna Chapel vestry.

OBITUARY

Jenny Phillips: former Bridgend Town Mayor

THE death has been announced of former Bridgend Town Mayor and councillor Jenny Phillips, who passed away peacefully at home in Bridgend at the age of 90.

The well-known businesswoman ran a popular sweet shop in Queen Street, Bridgend, for over 20 years; and was chairman of The Chamber of Trade for several years.

She played a very active part in local politics and gave over 30 years' service as a Conservative councillor on Bridgend Town Council – serving as Mayor in 1985/86; and also four years on Ogwr borough council.

A founder member of Bridgend Town Twinning, serving as chairman for many years she organised numerous exchange visits, and also gave service to many local charitable bodies.

Her long-time friend and council colleague, Coun David Unwin, paid tribute to her unswerving and stalwart service in many aspects of Bridgend life, and praised her dedication to help others.

The funeral service was due to take place yesterday (February 10) at Coychurch Crematorium.

The late Jenny Phillips.

Wanted: tourism ambassadors

BCBC and Bridgend Tourism Association are hoping to recruit 30 ambassadors to "share their passion for the area" with visitors.

The volunteers will be given free training to help improve their local knowledge and also the chance to develop communication skills.

Anyone interested in becoming a tourism ambassador, should telephone 07773 804470. contact Tracy James Lieberman by emailing tracyjlevents@gmail.com or

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL FEBRUARY 18)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
11 Thur	08.19	10.5	20.39	10.4
12 Fri	08.55	10.4	21.21	10.1
13 Sat	09.47	10.2	22.04	9.7
14 Sun	10.31	9.6	22.53	9.1
15 Mon	11.22	9.0	23.47	8.5
16 Tues			12.25	8.4
17 Wed	00.59	8.1	13.46	8.0
18 Thur	02.16	7.9	15.09	8.2

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

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Published by: Glamorgan GEM Ltd., Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge. CF71 7EL. Printed by TMP.

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Local midwives are off to London for awards ceremony

DEDICATION to new mums and their babies has earned ABMU staff five nominations at this year's RCM Midwifery Awards.

The prestigious annual awards mark outstanding achievement in midwifery across the UK: the awards ceremony takes place in London on March 8, and among the nominees attending will be lead midwife Lesley Owen and her colleague, Melanie Llewelyn.

They have been shortlisted for the public health award for their campaign to increase the uptake of flu and pertussis – whooping cough – vaccinations during pregnancy.

A delighted Lesley said: "Community midwives within ABMU worked together to increase the uptake of flu and pertussis vaccinations in pregnant women and have achieved 80.9 per cent uptake of flu vaccinations and a 77.5 per cent uptake of pertussis vaccinations, exceeding the Welsh Government target of 75 per cent."

Bryany Tweedale-Bend (right) with Laura and Jon Geary and their daughter Evelyn.

They will be joined at the event by Mari Davies, who works at Princess of Wales Hospital's maternity unit, and is hoping to claim the mentor of the year title, to follow up her recent success after being named as Swansea University's midwifery mentor of the year.

Mari said: "Mentorship is a role of the midwife and one which I am very passionate about, especially when their transition from novice to qualified practitioner is observed.

"I always endeavour to be approachable and supportive."

Christine Hanford, who was nominated by Lesley and works at Neath Port Talbot Hospital, is in the running for maternity support worker of the year. Lesley described Christine's role as pivotal and key in increasing the breastfeeding rates at Neath Port Talbot – from a 30 per cent initiation rate in 2011 to a 68 per cent rate in 2014.

"Christine has an extensive knowledge and skills regarding breastfeeding and is able to work independently providing relevant, appropriate information and practical advice. She is well respected not only by women and their families, but also by her colleagues," she said.

One ABMU midwife already knows she will be walking away from the event with a prize.

Bryany Tweedale-Bend has been named as Welsh winner of the mums' midwife of the year, sponsored by online maternity club, Emma's Diary.

However, she will have to wait until the ceremony to find out if she has beaten the other regional winners to claim the national title.

Acting head of midwifery, Jane Phillips, said all maternity staff in ABMU were committed to providing high standards of care and, many demonstrate great clinical leadership and are highly motivated towards improving services.

MEGA-FUNDRAISERS WHO HAVE NETTED £128,000 FOR MARIE CURIE CAUSE!

COYCHURCH WI NEWS

AFTER a warm welcome to everyone present by the president, Sandra Davidson, guest speakers Val Weaver and Claire Davies were introduced and presented their topic 'Climb for Macmillan'.

This was an enthralling talk and PowerPoint presentation by the enthusiastic and entertaining duo. They commenced their fundraising challenges in 2003 and have raised £128,000 to date for this very worthy charity.

The challenges have taken them to various countries over the years and their next planned challenge will be in a 'Coast to Coast Challenge' in Costa Rica.

Following a vote of thanks by Penny Gregory, a spontaneous collection was presented on behalf of the charity.

Next the business of the evening followed with items from the Newsletter highlighted along with diary dates for forthcoming activities.

For further details, contact Sandra on 01656 669232.

The next meeting will be held in the Williams Memorial Hall on March 1at 7.30pm. It will be an entertaining and fun evening with Kurling, and Welsh cakes will be served with tea/coffee to celebrate St David's Day.

A warm welcome will be extended to guests and prospective new members.

JANET JAMES

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Goody bags and eyesight check

SPECSAVERS in Porthcawl is holding a Big Fit event this Saturday, February 13 to encourage local residents to "give contact lenses a try," and members of staff will be on hand from 9am to 5pm, giving out goody bags and advising customers on which contact lenses are best for them.

The store on John Street is also holding a children's fun day on February 17, during the half term break when children can have their eyesight checked.

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Abseil challenge helps boost local charities

Caswell Clinic staff receive the cheque.

Geraint Richards with his mum Julie, dad Chris and sister Kayley.

Caswell Clinic ward clerk Shelley Smithson prepares to abseil.

FUNDRAISING couple Shannon and Lloyd Harris have delivered a four-figure boost to two charities after holding a series of charity events.

Shannon, who works at the Caswell Clinic, and Lloyd, who is a staff nurse on Ward 2 at Princess of Wales Hospital, organised a fundraising evening at the Caeffatri Bar in Bridgend as well as a sponsored abseil from Porthcawl Fire Tower.

They raised a total of £4,668, half of which has now been handed over to support Y Bwthyn Newydd, the specialist palliative care unit at Princess of Wales Hospital.

Shannon and her workmates wanted to support the unit to say thank you for the care it provided for one of their colleagues and this is the latest fundraiser she has been involved in organising to help it.

The remainder of the cash was presented to the Geraint Richards Fund. Thirteen-year-old Geraint, who is related to Lloyd, suffered severe brain damage following a near fatal asthma attack back in 2013 and requires ongoing care.

Shannon said: "Lloyd and I would like to say a big thank-you to all those who got involved helping us raise such an amazing amount for two such great worthy causes."

Local rider scoops top equestrian award

A FORMER international horse rider who now works with leading equine specialist Countrywide has scooped a top award.

Jane Yeoman, based at the Countrywide Bridgend store, was presented with the Harry Hall Retail Employee of the Year prize, as part of the annual British Equestrian Trade Association (BETA) Business Awards.

She scooped the title after wowing the judges with her initiative, excellence in customer service, product knowledge and commitment to professional retailing. An independent judging panel drew up a shortlist and Jane was chosen as the winner.

The equine specialist, who has worked for Countrywide for six years, was part of a winning Mounted Games Association of Great Britain team when she was a teenager.

Jane Yeonam receiving the award from Oliver Hoare, co-chairman of Matchmakers (award sponsor).

She commented: "It feels amazing to have won, I was absolutely delighted when my name was read out at the awards. I really didn't expect to win and I was so shocked to be nominated in the first place because Countrywide has so many skilled and knowledgeable members of staff deserving of recognition."

Jane, who has been riding ponies and horses since she was three years old, was presented with her accolade at a gala dinner at the National Motorcycle Museum, Solihull, plus a £200 cash prize.

Countrywide was also presented with BETA training vouchers.

Bridgend apprentice Nathan's 'dream job'

A 22-YEAR-OLD from Bridgend has secured his dream job – after completing an apprenticeship at global forklift truck manufacturer, Linde Material Handling.

Nathan Jones is one of 10 apprentices to finish the four-year programme at the Linde Severnside Depot in Bridgend, and has now begun his career as a workshop engineer with the company.

Linde's apprenticeship programme was launched in 2011 and in 2015, the company received a record 381 apprenticeship applications across all of its UK offices – from Aberdeen to Bristol.

As part of his apprenticeship, Nathan has learned the broad range of practical skills and theory needed to service Linde's growing fleet of forklift trucks. His first two years saw him receive a mix of Linde product classroom-based training, on the job training, and supporting visits to Hinckley College Warwickshire, where he studied advanced forklift truck electronics and hydraulics.

In his final year, Nathan put the theory he learned into practice through on-the-job training in product maintenance, health, safety and customer service.

Nathan said: "From a very young age, I have always been interested in cars and trying to understand how things work, I thought that working with Linde would give me the hands-on experience I needed to become an engineer.

"Having left school at 16, I started in a pathway to apprenticeship scheme at a local college on IMI level 1 and 2, I heard about Linde apprenticeships from my careers advisor, I applied for a place and was successful and I've never looked back."

Who wants to build what and where?

Wales & West Housing – **Llys Faen, Quarella Road, Bridgend** – Upgrade and improve existing scheme lighting with LED lighting and emergency lighting.

Mr Feroz Peerbaccus – **74 Heol Castell, Coety, Litchard** – Loft conversion raising ridge height and porch extension.

Mr D J Edwards – **50 Orchard Drive, Porthcawl** – Dormer extension to the front elevation.

Mrs Claire Thoms – **Plot 4, Tynewydd Farm, Ogmore Vale** – Relax condition 1 of P/12/769/RLX to extend time for submission of reserved matters one dwelling.

Specsavers Optical Superstores – **36 and 38 Adare Street, Bridgend** – Installation of new fascia with illuminated pod logo and window manifestations.

Mr S Kendall – **8 Ty Isaf Road, Cefn Cribwr** – Single storey rear extension.

Mr G Ames – **Land north of 47 Heol Ty Gwyn, Maesteg** – Two detached houses with garages and new private access road.

Mr Kim Walker – **23-27 High Street, Ogmore Vale** – Extend commencement of P/11/139/RLX for further five years; nine self-contained starter home flats.

Mr Razul – **33 Market Street, Bridgend** – Relax condition 2 of P/98/555/FUL to extend opening hours until 12.30am Sunday to Wednesday, 2.30am Thursday, 3.30am Friday and 4.30am Saturday.

Mr Luke Griffin – **Part of Gelli Feddgaer woodland near Blackmill** – Prior notification for a forestry shed.

Mr Terry White – **1 Maesteg Road, Tondu** – Single storey rear pitched roof kitchen extension.

Mrs Helen Board – **Rear of 67 lane off West Road, Bridgend** – One additional block of three single garages, hardstanding, two turning heads, drop kerb improvements to rear lane.

Mr Mark Hogben – **122 Fulmar Road, Nottage, Porthcawl** – Remove existing conservatory and reposition to rear of new single storey rear flat roof extension.

Mr Gordon Perrie – **6 Esterling Drive, Porthcawl** – Proposed extension and roof storage.

Mr Denis Costigan – **23 Brian Crescent, Porthcawl** – Proposed alterations and canopy.

Mr K O'Connor – **22 Clos yr Eirin, Bridgend** – Detached garage.

Mr Paul Kembery – **40 Alexander Road, Pontycymmer** – Non material amendment of P/15/291/FUL.

Wilderness Allotments Association – **Heol y Goedwig, Porthcawl** – Toilet and storage shed for use by disabled gardening club.

Samawi Ltd – **Land rear of Princess Street, Maesteg** – Approval of details for conditions 1, 4, 6, 8, 9, 10, 13 and 16 of P/15/696/RLX; 1, 4, 6, 8, 10, 11, 13 and 14 of P/15/695/RLX.

NPORS Ltd – **Plot 119, Village Farm Road, Village Farm Industrial Estate, Pyle** – Change of use to training centre for plant machinery ops and erection of 9m high scaffold tower (amended plan).

Specsavers Optical Superstores – **36 and 38 Adare Street, Bridgend** – Installation of new shopfront and three air conditioning condensing units.

Former High Sheriff's talk to civic charity

AN enjoyable afternoon was spent at Court Colman Manor, Pen-y-fai on Sunday, January 31, when Mrs Gaynor Richards, executive director of Neath Port Talbot council for voluntary services spoke to Bridgend county civic charity committee and friends, with the Mayor of Bridgend county, Coun Richard Young.

She explained that she had intended to study Law, but due to circumstances did not follow this choice and realises her work today is far more satisfying and enjoyable.

In 2008, Gaynor was awarded the MBE in the New Year Honours List for services to the voluntary/community sector and in 2009 appointed as third sector non-officer member of the ABMU local health board, and its children and young people's champion; also Welsh language champion.

In 2013/2014 she became High Sheriff of West Glamorgan – a year she will "always cherish and remember".

The comperè was Mrs Heidi Bennett, executive director of Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations (BAVO) who also works for the voluntary sector in the county borough.

The next event is on Friday, February 19 at the Great House Hotel and Restaurant, Laleston at 12.30pm with guest speaker Non Evans, former Welsh international at rugby, judo, wrestling and weightlifting – and now a sports broadcaster and commentator. Call 01656 664105, or 871439 for tickets.

MM

Books, hats and bonnets at WI

THERE was a good turnout for the first meeting of 2016 at Merthyr Mawr WI.

This was an informal meeting in the form of a book exchange; members brought along a book that they had enjoyed reading and were willing to share with others.

Following a chat about the books, they enjoyed a social evening to catch up with friends.

This month we welcomed Janet Jennings, our speaker for the evening whose topic was the history of hats and she took us through a potted history of fashion.

Starting with a couple of delicate black Victorian bonnets, she went from 1900 to the present day with varied hats. Janet has a large collection, which she modelled beautifully.

It took us all back remembering hats we, or our mothers, had worn in the past and many celebrities who were known for their style of headgear – one of the most notable being Jackie Kennedy's little 'pill box' hat.

Members were reminded of the visit to Llanelly House on February 23.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 2 at 7pm in Corntown Community Hall, when the speaker will be Jonathon Williams, whose topic is the statue of Scott of the Antarctic in the Bay.

Snowbound in Washington, storm hit in Miami... give me Porthcawl any time!

WESTMINSTER NOTEBOOK

Bridgend MP MADELEINE MOON is writing an exclusive monthly report from Westminster for The GEM.

MY top tip for anyone thinking of invading the United States is to do it when it snows! I was heading for Washington to attend a NATO conference in Washington and Miami and I'm sure that sounds terribly glamorous, because you imagine yourself on holiday, rather than moving between government departments and think-tanks for meetings.

When you add 25 inches of snow, it becomes even less glamorous; I promise! My conference started on the Monday but I flew to Washington on the Friday to spend the weekend with friends, one of whom is very ill.

My friend was due to return to hospital on the Monday of my conference, and I wanted to spend some time together before the second round of treatment began. It seemed a great plan, but then I did not factor in the weather.

I arrived in Washington on one of the last flights into the city before the airport was closed. As we circled the airport, the pilot made one of those announcements you just don't want to hear.

He announced that we were not able to land as ground staff were not sure the runway was safe to land on because of the snow layer; but not to worry, we had an hour's worth of fuel left.

An hour's worth of fuel? Now in the UK that would take me to Cardiff, Birmingham, Gatwick, Luton. I found myself picturing a map of the US and trying to imagine where there was an airport an hour's flying time away that was not snow-bound.

We landed after lots of tossing around in the sky and found a virtually empty airport. Whatever staff could be sent home had already gone. I was off the plane, through passport control, had my luggage and was into a taxi within about 15 minutes. The airport was closing as we left.

Driving into Washington over snow-covered roads was not helped by flashing electronic signs warning motorists to be off the roads by 5pm and bus stops with signs saying the buses and metro were stopping at 5pm until further notice.

We arrived at my friend's home just before 5pm and the driver gave me my suitcase and left.

Somehow, the weather is less important once you arrive at your destination and you have friends to catch up with and news to share. The weather was forgotten until the next morning when the blinds were raised to reveal a world of total whiteness.

Our immediate worry was being able to get out of the house to access the hospital and my conference on Monday morning so Saturday was a day of snow digging.

It's not often you wade though snow and have to shovel through three or four layers before you hit the ground, but that is how we spent the morning, trying to get from the front door to the road outside the house, while singing Good King Wenceslas!

The snow returned and our pathway to the street was again under snow and the work started again.

On Sunday, the snow had mostly stopped and the new task of trying to dig out cars began. The centre of the road was deep in snow, but slowly cars began to emerge from snow mounds and pavements were cleared.

By mid-afternoon, news filtered through that the main roads were being cleared, but there was little chance of side streets being snow-ploughed. Those with 4-by-4s began testing their tyres and slipping and sliding through the snow.

Gangs of youths arrived looking for employment clearing sidewalks and digging out steps down to basements.

By Monday, it was possible to get my friend to hospital for her treatment and for me to find a taxi to take me to my conference.

Colleagues began arriving from all over the world as the airport opened: there were Canadians, Latvians, Turks, French, Italians; the NATO world arrived in Washington, but no Americans, as their local airports remained closed.

We tried walking to meetings, but that was not easy. Pavements were clear, but crossing the road was a wet experience. With cars parked next to the pavement still covered in snow, the ploughs had simply cleared narrow strips of road down the centre of streets.

To cross the road, you had to climb over the snow mounds between the cars and then the new ones created by the snow ploughs! We thus had high hopes of our next destination: Miami. Sun, glamour, beaches dramatic architecture.

Ok, we were going to be talking about managing a migration crisis, but the destination sounded so much better than snow-bound Washington.

Sadly, no. We flew into Miami on the tail end of a tornado with lightning flashing across the sky and torrential rain tossing the plane that made me nostalgic for the landing in Washington.

The American Senators and Congressmen arrived to join us but so did cold and very wet weather. The air conditioning was still working so we sat and shivered though Powerpoint presentations of desperate people trying to cross the seas to reach Florida.

As the three UK MPs boarded our plane back home, the elements were not finished with us yet. A storm was heading up the east coast of the US and moving across the Atlantic to Europe and we flew though it all tightly strapped to our seats and hoping we did not have to fly anywhere for some time to come.

Glamour? Give me a day in Porthcawl any time!

Mulligan Community project hopes to open family centre in the spring

PICTURED (left to right): Amanda Kirk, director, Mulligan Community, Ed Kirk, director, Mulligan Community, Carwyn Jones AM, Mayor of Bridgend, Coun Richard Young and Mayoress, Mrs Annette Young, MC board members Steven Powell and Natalie Silcox.

Photograph by Joseph Blake from Eye's Open Media.

LAST week, Bridgend AM and First Minister Carwyn Jones and the Mayor of Bridgend, Coun Richard Young, attended the opening of the Mulligan Community third sector offices on Bridgend Industrial Estate.

Mulligan Community is a non-profit social enterprise set up to support families and individuals in Bridgend. The opening of the offices is the first step on the road to the MC Family Centre it hopes to open in late spring and it hopes to show its support by providing third sector organisations with affordable office spaces to rent. It is currently home to Home Start Bridgend and Barnardo's Cymru and meeting rooms can be hired out and three family assessment rooms.

Mr Jones said: "I was very pleased to attend the grand opening of the Mulligan Community Third Sector Offices. It was also an opportunity to hear more about their plans for the Mulligan Community family centre in Bridgend. The aim will be to provide a family centre for families and individuals, open from Monday to Saturday, 8am to 8pm, that will offer a variety of support groups, facilities and services."

Amanda Kirk, Director, Mulligan Community said that the opening was a huge success; over 100 people attended, fromcharities, businesses and public services.

Many local businesses were "lining up to be involved with business sponsorship and making their mark in stamping out poverty and social exclusion in Bridgend, it's a very exciting time for Bridgend," she added.

Buddhism talk in Pencoed

A FREE talk on meditation and modern Buddhism will be held at Pencoed Library (Penybont Road, Pencoed, CF35 5RA) on Friday, February 12 from 6pm – 7pm.

The session will be guided by Neil Rowlands, a long-term practitioner of Kadampa Buddhism, and is an opportunity to discover how the ancient teachings and meditations of Buddha can help us to keep a happy mind in the busy modern world. There will also be a chance to try some simple meditation and ask questions.

There is no need to book, and everyone is welcome. For further information on Dharmavajra Centre and its activities, visit www.meditationinwales.org. The Centre can also be found on Facebook and Twitter.

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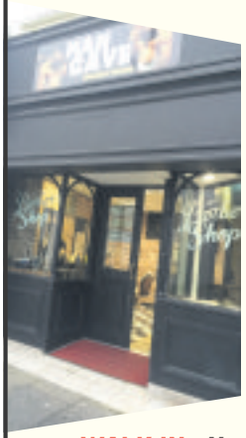
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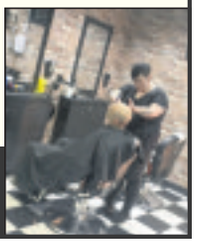
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PORTHCAWL'S FLAGSHIP CHARITY EVENTS HAND CASH WINDFALL TO LOCAL GROUPS

Photographs by
GLYN EVANS

OTHER PICTURES ARE AVAILABLE FROM THIS EVENT.

Pictures can be purchased by contacting:

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Representatives of the Sea Cadets.

ABOVE: Some of the team at Trinity Care and Support.

ABOVE: The boxing club receive their cheque from Nicola Willis

Raul from the Rock Club.

Tim from the Coastguards.

ABOVE: Representatives of Glamorgan Holiday Hotel.

ABOVE: Representatives of the Fire Service.

ABOVE: Ted White of Ty Elis make a speech.

Paul Joseph from Porthcawl Museum.

Coastwatch.

St John Ambulance.

A TOTAL of 26 local charities received donations from two of Porthcawl's biggest charity events last Friday (February 5) at a presentation evening in the Hi-Tide Inn.

Porthcawl Buckaneers, organisers of Porthcawl Carnival and Porthcawl Christmas Morning Swim, raised more than £12,000 over the two events, and that cash was shared out during the evening.

The Swim's main beneficiary was Porthcawl RNLI Lifeboat who were celebrating their 50th anniversary in the town.

John Abraham, the Porthcawl RNLI chairman, received a cheque of £3,000 on behalf of the lifeboat station.

The carnival main beneficiary was Ty Elis Counselling Service, which received £1,000.

Masters of ceremony for the evening Dave King MBE and Jeff Tombes, representing the Buckaneers, presented cheques to Porthcawl Sea Cadets, Porthcawl Mayor's Charity Fund, Porthcawl Parkinson's Support Group, Porthcawl Rock Club, Trinity Care Club, Porthcawl Kidney Research, Porthcawl Lifeguard Club, St. John Ambulance, Porthcawl Fire Service, Ty Elis Counselling, Cornelly and District Community Trust, Porthcawl RFC - Junior Section, The Samaritans (Bridgend branch), Porthcawl and Pyle Pumas Amateur Boxing Club, Porthcawl Museum and Historical Society, the Sandville Self-Help Centre, the Glamorgan Holiday Hotel, Porthcawl Town Athletic FC, Porthcawl Coastguard Unit, PAWs, Marie Curie, Coast Watch, Guide Dogs for the Blind, Latch Caravan for Kidz, Porthcawl Stroke Club and Porthcawl RNLI.

The retiring Christmas Morning Swim chairman, Nicola Willis, said: "Our guests, commit many hours for the benefit of our community and we were delighted to give them some financial help."

She thanked each committee for the hard work and support in putting on the two key events in Porthcawl's calendar.

There were two other retirements announced on the night, both from the Christmas swim committee.

Ian Stroud retired after long service as press officer for the swim, while his wife, Linda, also stood down as secretary.

Ian was presented with a caricature portrait, and Linda received a 'thank you' bouquet of flowers.

During the evening, guests were entertained by Porthcawl Ukulele Band who, as usual, provided excellent entertainment.

The date of this year's carnival was announced as July 23 and the theme will be 'Life on the Beach'. Organisers will arrange meetings at the Hi Tide Inn, Mackworth Road Porthcawl to seek and discuss entries as 'floats' and 'walkers' and for any group, organisations or individuals who would be prepared to help with the event.

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PORTHCAWL SWIM– THE ROLL OF HONOUR!

ABOVE: Porthcawl Kidney Research representatives receive their cheque from Nicola Willis (centre).

Porthcawl Stroke Club.

Porthcawl Lifeguards

Cornelly Community Trust received a cheque.

Gwyneth from the Sandville.

Guide Dogs for the Blind.

ABOVE: The representatives of Porthcawl Parkinson's Support Group.

Porthcawl RFC juniors.

Marie Curie received a donation.

Porthcawl Athletic Club's representative.

On behalf of PAWS.

Bridgend Samaritans.

Representing LATCH.

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

OTHER PICTURES ARE AVAILABLE FROM THIS EVENT.

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Jeni's determination and creativity is an inspiration

COMMUNITIES FIRST is a Welsh Government funded organisation which aims to reduce poverty and tackle social exclusion in some of Wales' most deprived communities.

Here, Hywel Thomas, from the Bridgend Communities First, tells Jeni's story:

Jeni Emment beckons me in from the rain and into the warmth of her living room... I'm immediately struck by the air of calm in her candle-lit home in Cornelly, Bridgend which she shares with her five-year-old daughter Lily – very much the apple of her mother's eye.

She is one of a growing number of people who are taking advantage of courses funded by Bridgend Communities First to empower them to fulfil their potential – strengthening important life skills in areas such as health, education and financial prosperity.

I'm treated to one of Jeni's sugar-free cranberry and cinnamon muffins, which send my taste-buds into overdrive. If only all interviews were this pleasurable!

The kitchen, which doubles up as her workshop, is an assortment of brightly coloured gems, beads and buttons. She is putting the finishing touches to her latest bespoke necklace and is keen to tell me about her new business venture.

If success was measured purely on drive and enthusiasm, Jeni would already be over the finishing line. She is confident and has a clear vision for what she hopes will provide her and daughter Lily with a secure future. But it wasn't always this way.

"Free spirited are the words that best describe my character", said Jeni.

"Unfortunately, when I left school I found myself in a number of jobs that neither challenged nor inspired me. They certainly weren't conducive to my personality. I've always been active and a great lover of the outdoors and travel.

"The nine to five routine of office life felt stifling at times and went very much against the grain of my nature but, as is the case for a lot of people, the necessity to earn a living to pay the bills prevented me from leaving."

In 2004, Jeni decided enough was enough, and took the bold decision to up sticks and head for Australia and a new life.

Staying with relatives initially, Australia provided the vast open canvas she needed to give expression to her creative and spiritual needs. Here Jeni was able to develop her skills as an artisan specialising in bespoke jewellery.

"I really found myself in Australia, and discovered meditation. In many ways the move away gave me the space and time to grow".

After nine long years away, with her mother now in poor health, and expecting her first child, Jeni returned to Wales.

"This was a difficult period of adjustment for me," she explained.

"The weather was cold; I had no money, no car and was living in my parents' spare bedroom. But then Lily was born – all the inspiration I needed. The first couple of years were a struggle but I was determined to provide a good life for my daughter.

"Somebody told me about Communities First and a number of free courses they were providing that that could help me develop my plans for a new business, combining meditation, holistic therapy and jewellery-making.

"It was too good an opportunity to pass up. In many ways, these courses – including, Indian head massage, cake decorating and food safety – gave me the confidence and perhaps greater focus to move forward with my plans, which I'd perhaps previously dismissed as wishful thinking.

"But sometimes when you're starting out you need a bit of a leg-up; some help and structure to allow you to move forward with confidence.

"Since then, I've got together with my friend Tracy and we've pro-actively taken our business out to the community and the response so far has been promising.

"Porthcawl Football Club, for example, kindly agreed to give us access to a stall at their ground, as part of a drive to bring more community activities to the club.

"Word of mouth is so important in building a strong client-base, so we're determined to make the most of opportunities like this.

"It's going to be busy year for me and it's a nice feeling to able to say that. The next phase in developing the business is to get our website set up and some business cards printed.

" It really feels like things are coming together, and in no small part I've got Bridgend Communities First to thank for that."

Jeni's passion and determination to pursue her dream is an inspiration to others and my meeting with her leaves me in little doubt that she will succeed – with a perfect combination of creativity and energy.

To find out what Bridgend Communities First is doing in your area and how we can help you, visit: www.commsfirstbridgend.com.

PUBLIC NOTICE

BRITISH COAL COKING PLANTS

DEADLINE - 24 APRIL 2016

The High Court has appointed Hugh James and Irwin Mitchell as lead solicitors in a group action for conditions associated with employment at coke works operated by British Coal. Specifically:

- respiratory disease
- lung cancer
- temporary exacerbation of asthma
- squamous cell skin cancer

A closing date for the group register has been set by the Court as 24 April 2016.

If you think you or a deceased family member may have been affected and worked in a coke fuel plant as a coke oven worker and wish to consider joining the group, please contact Hugh James or Irwin Mitchell by 24 February 2016 who will send you further information and assess whether you may be eligible to join the group and claim compensation.

If you instruct an alternative solicitor other than Hugh James or Irwin Mitchell, it is their responsibility to submit notice of any individual wishing to join the litigation to Hugh James and Irwin Mitchell.

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It's Panto time once again in Blaengarw!

Photographs by
GLYN EVANS

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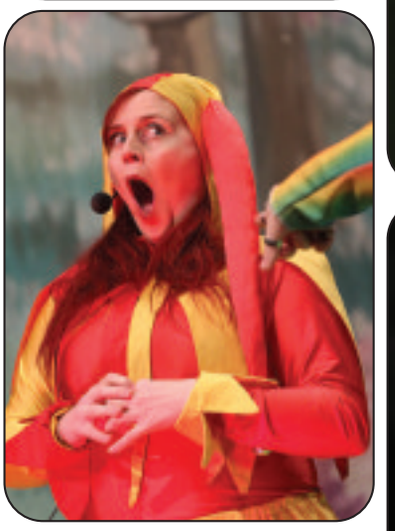

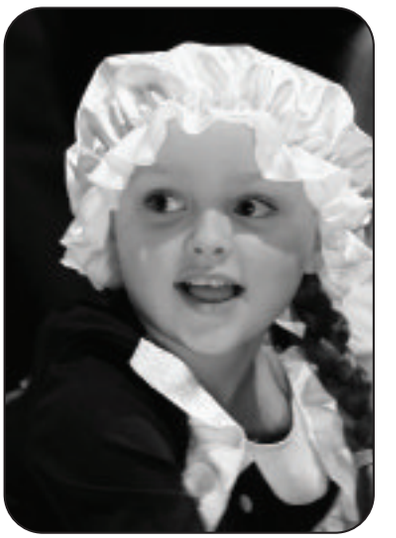

ONE popular Garw Valley tradition was continued recently when the Blaengarw Workmen's Hall was alive once again to the sounds of people enjoying two hours of pantomime fun.

The show was entitled *Snow White, five dwarfs, and two idiots* – and the audience enjoyed the usual mix of song, dance and jokes!

MP impressed by local state-of-the-art school

MP Madeleine Moon with Coety Primary pupils Deryn, Jonah and Tom on the school roof.

LAST week, Bridgend MP Madeleine Moon visited the new, state-of-the-art Coety Primary School.

Pupils moved into the school last October in Parc Derwen Estate, Bridgend. It is more than twice the size of the old one and caters for over 300 pupils.

"It is leading the way in being sustainable and energy efficient, with solar panels and natural ventilation.

"It has an interior colour scheme of primary and pastel colours, designed with the help of the pupils," the MP said.

"I was met by Mrs Morgan and three pupils who were construction ambassadors for the school, who helped with the design of the new school – Deryn, Tom and Jonah – who gave me a comprehensive tour of the school.

"These three pupils are also digital leaders (pupil monitors for the technology used in the school).

"Split over two levels, the nursery and infant classrooms are on the ground floor, which lead out into colourful play areas with soft rubber surfaces, and the junior pupil classrooms are all on the first floor," the MP reported.

"There is a wonderful feeling of light, colour and space in the school that has created a calm learning environment for the pupils, along with classical music which is played softly in classrooms.

"The school also has a community room and changing rooms, which can be used by the local community for sports events and meetings.

"Despite a cold and windy day my three tour guides were anxious to show me the solar panels on the roof!" Mrs Moon added.

CARRIAGE SKILLS ON DISPLAY IN PENCOED DESPITE THE HORRENDOUS WEATHER...

IMAGES by **GLYN EVANS**

SOUTH WALES Carriage Club held an event at Pencoed College on Saturday, February 6. Competitors came from throughout the area and tested their skills in carriage handling – despite enduring horrendous weather.

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Porthcawl Lifeboat is launched to check out Imogen life raft

The RNLI crew bring the lifecraft to shore.

IN the wake of storm Imogen, Porthcawl RNLI lifeboat volunteers were paged at 9.22am on Tuesday, February 9, following reports of a life raft adrift in the Bristol Channel, approximately one mile east of the breakwater.

Porthcawl lifeboat was launched within minutes to investigate the circumstances and to check if there were any persons aboard. Fortunately, the craft, although badly damaged by the severe storms, was empty and there were no reports of missing persons.

From enquiries made by Porthcawl Coastguard unit, who were on duty during the incident, it appears that the life raft had been washed off one of the large merchant ships off Port Talbot. Once it entered the water, it would automatically inflate and enable any persons in the sea to have some life saving ability.

Porthcawl lifeboat helmsman Joe Missen put two of his crew aboard the life raft and made it ready to be towed back to the lifeboat station, where it was brought ashore and thoroughly checked over.

Joe said: "The very nature of its design made it a difficult craft to tow. I was really surprised how yesterday's storm had wrecked the canopy, and had there been any casualties aboard they would have been fully exposed to the ferocity of storm Imogen."

Porthcawl's lifeboat operations manager, Philip Missen, said: "Reports of this nature are always followed up and fortunately there were no casualties aboard. I dread to think how anyone would have survived yesterday's storm which was blowing storm force 12 at Porthcawl for most of the day."

Porthcawl RNLI medal winner invited to preview of new blockbuster

RETIRED volunteer helmsman Aileen Jones from Porthcawl lifeboat was among six RNLI crew from across the UK who were invited to the preview screening of *The Finest Hour,* a new American disaster drama film by Walt Disney Pictures.

Aileen Jones. Photo by Steve Jones, Porthcawl RNLI.

Still a volunteer at Porthcawl, Aileen now acts as deputy launch authority at the lifeboat station and was invited following a joint promotion between Disney and the RNLI, ahead of the film's premiere on February 19.

The film is based on a true story of the *Pendleton* rescue mission attempt in 1952 by US Coast Guard boats off Cape Cod to an oil tanker split in half. The film stars Chris Pine, Casey Affleck and Eric Bana. Each will be invited to visit the RNLI lifeboat station at Tower Bridge on the Thames.

Aileen received her Bronze Medal for gallantry in 2005 following the successful rescue the year earlier of two local men aboard their fishing boat *Gower Pride,* from Porthcawl, which ran aground on the notoriously dangerous Nash sand bank when their boat suffered engine failure.

She was the first RNLI female crew member ever to receive an award for gallantry. She has always praised the support of her crew on that rescue.

Disney wanted to capture film and soundbites of the RNLI crew's reactions to the movie and have arranged a partnership with Classic FM so that the soundbites will be played on air over several days, while the short videos will be played on the Classic FM website.

Following her visit to the cinema at Leicester Square Aileen said: "I enjoyed the film and storyline, the picture and sound effects were really special as we watched it in 3D.

"Of course what made it so interesting was that it was based on a true historical event. During the film the lighthouse at Chatham, Cape Cod was featured and it suddenly struck me that Stephen, my husband, and I had visited the actual lighthouse a few years ago while on holiday and had not realised the significance and history."

Eric's French honour!

RIGHT: Eric Barley pictures with a book he co-authored detailing the exploits of The 12th Yorkshire Parachute Regiment. PICTURE BY RANDELL JOHN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

During Eric's second week in Normandy he was very badly injured at Le Mensell, and shipped home for treatment and convalescence.

In December 1944, after five months of treatment and being categorised as fit for duty, Eric again made his way across The English Channel, only this time he was heading for Belgium, where he would take part in the famous 'Battle Of The Bulge'.

In atrocious winter weather conditions with thick snow on the ground, allied troops took up defensive positions in the Ardennes Forest after a successful counter offensive by the Nazis which caught the Allies completely off guard.

It is estimated that over 300,000 enemy troops surrounded American and British Forces, and with poor weather keeping aircraft from flying in support, the allies had to hold the opposing forces at bay until the weather broke and the German troops and supply chain could be targeted.

Eric told The GEM that one of his vivid memories of the time was that he didn't see a blade of grass for two months because of the snow-covered landscape.

In January 1945 the weather broke, and with the help of air support the Nazis were eventually routed, and driven back to the Siegfried line.

The fighting in the Ardennes region was extremely fierce and the battle cost the Germans dearly. They lost many battle hardened soldiers which reduced their effectiveness as an offensive force.

Eric and his battalion were called on again after the Battle Of The Bulge, and moved north into the Netherlands where they fought on opposite banks to the Nazis on the River Rhine.

Commando snatch parties occurred nightly, with both sides making night raids across the river in an attempt to capture the enemy and gather intelligence.

Eric's war-time exploits don't end there, as he and his comrades advanced four hundred miles through Europe to Prussia, where his battalion were the first allied troops to meet advancing Russian forces moving in on Berlin.

As if this wasn't enough adventure for one lifetime, Eric was then posted to the Far East, seeing action in Java and Singapore among other countries on the way.

His time in the army has left an indelible mark on Eric's life and his taste for adventure carried on into his adult life,

As a civilian he moved to Australia where he lived for 20 years.

After his daughter married, he and his wife sold all their belongings and toured the country by caravan, clocking up over 40,000 miles on the road

Eric is a man of many talents and In 1996 along with co-author Yves Fohlen, they published a book about the exploits of The 12th Yorkshire Parachute Battalion. It was met with critical acclaim, and their writing was applauded by the literature departments of Leeds and Swansea Universities.

He has lived a most fascinating and adventurous life.

Eventually Eric and his wife settled near his home town of Sarn, and now live in Coity, Bridgend.

At 90 years old Eric looks fit and healthy, and is still full of vigour.

It is easy to imagine him as a young man dressed in his paratrooper's uniform proudly sporting the famous maroon beret.

The GEM salutes you Eric - congratulations on your long awaited medal.

Conservation area plan

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Council officers will be present each week day morning from 9am to 1pm to explain the proposals, and will also be there for a full day until 8:30pm on Tuesday, February 16.

Coun Charles Smith, the council's cabinet member for regeneration and economic development said: "Fifteen areas of Bridgend county borough, including 12 rural ones, currently have conservation area status.

"This means that the local buildings have a character worth conserving and protecting for future generations, whether historical or new.

"The council has a statutory duty to review its conservation areas from time to time, and an appraisal of the Porthcawl Conservation Area has recommended that it should be extended. We're keen to hear the views of local residents, businesses and visitors on this."

Anyone who is unable to call in to the Grand Pavilion can also express their views by emailing *conservation&design@bridgend.gov.uk* or by writing to Conservation and Design, Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend CF31 4WB before Friday, March 11.

Go to the **The GEM** for the latest stories and breaking news...
www.bridgend-today.co.uk
www.porthcawl-today.co.uk

Council 'presses play' on YouTube channel

BRIDGEND County Borough Council (BCBC) has launched a YouTube channel to share videos online with local residents.

The local authority will use the video sharing website to post clips about council and community news, as well as information about local events.

A range of short films are already available on the new channel, from heart-warming moments from last summer's A Level and GCSE results days, to footage from the council's annual Holocaust Memorial Day event, which was held at the Sony Theatre at Bridgend College last Friday (February 5).

With major regeneration projects such as the Rhiw development in Bridgend and Porthcawl's Jennings Building underway in the county borough, residents can expect to see exclusive and behind-the-scenes content on the new YouTube channel during the coming months.

Coun Mike Gregory, BCBC's cabinet member for resources, said: "Most people have a smartphone, tablet device or computer these days, and using social media puts the council at many of our residents' fingertips.

"We've established Facebook and Twitter accounts during recent years, and our new YouTube channel will add an extra dimension to our social media presence.

"This new YouTube channel will give residents an insight into the council from a fresh perspective, and hopefully allow us to connect with new groups of local residents."

The view the council's new channel, visit YouTube and search for 'BridgendCBC'.

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D917.

- **£2,000:** 110304.
- **The rollover, which is currently £7,000, was not won this week.**
- **£10:** 346316, 427183, 217470, 104150, 300216, 678970, 825127, 866063, 437255, 423246, 167075, 209608, 527759, 816885, 170749, 930572, 848083, 770209, 987032, 442725.
- **£5:** 375773, 351964, 717762, 263120, 191254, 469692, 136612, 742916, 502477, 856968, 815206, 815064, 628030, 626038, 727107, 605405, 276035, 202624, 755886, 519323, 671047, 708571, 820145, 423279, 807303, 419895, 918606, 396190, 609018, 853009, 379721, 612137, 405655, 672241, 766025, 968448, 523213, 263470, 906229, 107574, 731712, 472264, 671343, 826269, 220647, 143221, 224254, 262735, 712053, 735030, 246780, 139812, 883740, 663281, 144887, 000948, 001206, 1985158, 005324.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please telephone 029 2053 2300.

SARA TELLS OF LIFE AFTER LIFE-CHANGING SURGERY

A year ago this month, Sara Evans underwent life-changing surgery – then turned up at an interview with a bra on her head – and got a new job!

Eight years ago, Sara Evans was referred by her GP to a consultant for a breast reduction operation as her large breasts had been the plague of her teenage years and the whole of her adult life.

While she had always been a relatively out-going person loving drama, singing and dancing, this persona was a façade hiding a lifetime of insecurity caused by bullying and general teasing about the size of her breasts.

Buying attractive underwear and wearing bikinis was not an option, for she spent her life wearing baggy clothes and hunching to try and disguise her bosom.

In addition, she was not able to undertake physical exercise as she suffered with severe back and shoulder pain.

She became more and more miserable and became bigger and bigger as she comfort-ate and piled the weight on – making the problem even worse.

Under NHS guidelines at the time, she had to be 13 stone or under to have a breast reduction operation on the NHS.

The consultant confirmed that while she was obese, he had to take into consideration that her breasts were particularly large and he had some discretion on this weight limit and gave her a weight target to reach of 13 and a half stone for him to perform the operation. It meant losing four stone.

In January 2014, she walked into a WeightWatchers meeting weighing in at 16 stone and 8.5 pounds.

By the beginning of November the same year, she had lost the 43.5lbs needed to lose to have the operation. She was referred back to the consultant and the operation was performed on February 10, 2015.

Sara before losing weight...

... and Sara today.

She carried on with the Weight Watchers Plan and has now lost 74.5lbs and is currently 3 lbs away from her goal weight.

In addition to the operation, she also recently been advised by her GP that she no longer needs to take medication for hypertension, which is also as a direct result of her weight loss.

Such has been the transformation in her health and confidence, that Sara applied to become a Weightwatchers' leader herself, and turned up at the interview with one of her large bras on her head.

It certainly did the trick, as she landed the role and she now has the confidence each week to inspire others to reach their weight loss goals.

She said: "Losing weight has been a huge turning point in my life not only for my health, but my everyday confidence."

Sara now runs weekly classes in the local area.

14% rise in cancer numbers in Wales

LATEST figures show an increase of 14 per cent over 10 years in the number of new cancer cases in Wales, according to a new report published by Public Health Wales on World Cancer Day.

The increase in cancer numbers in Wales is the result of people living longer, and an increase in many preventable cancers in middle-aged and younger pensioners, especially in women.

The report from the Welsh Cancer Intelligence and Surveillance Unit (WCISU) demonstrates a clear link between lung cancer and areas of deprivation.

The incidence rate in the most deprived areas is around two-and-a-half times the rate in the least deprived areas, and the gap has widened.

Lung cancer numbers have increased by an average of 243 extra cases per year in women compared to 10 years previously.

Welsh women have one of the highest lung cancer incidence rates in Europe. The report also finds that lung cancer causes more deaths than bowel and breast cancer combined.

WCISU is publishing the most up-to-date data relating to trends in cancer incidence, mortality and survival in Wales for people diagnosed up to the end of 2014.

The report finds that lung, breast, prostate, and bowel cancers remain the most common cancers in Wales, and along with melanoma, they showed the largest increase in numbers over 10 years.

Breast cancer has higher rates in the least deprived areas, with the gap decreasing mainly due to increased incidence among women in the most deprived areas.

Although less common at the moment, liver cancer rates increased by 65 per cent in men and 42 per cent in women.

Norwegian airline flies into Cardiff

LOW cost airline Norwegian has signed a new agreement to continue its charter partnerships with Thomson and First Choice (part of the TUI Group) which will see the airline's first ever flights from Cardiff Airport.

It will fly a charter route to Tenerife on behalf of Thomson and First Choice. Passengers travelling to the popular holiday destination in the Canaries will fly on Norwegian's new aircraft which offers free in-flight WiFi.

Tenerife is currently in the top 10, ranked seventh of most popular direct destinations for passengers travelling from Cardiff.

Karen Switzer, Director of Aviation Planning for Thomson and First Choice, said: "The introduction of this extra flight to Tenerife demonstrates our commitment to Cardiff Airport and the local area.

It adds more choice of flights and flexibility for 10 and 11 night holidays to this popular destination and will allow our customers in the area to experience even more exciting holidays."

The Norwegian flight will operate on Tuesdays from May 3 to September 27.

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Cloudy2Clear Announce Trusted Trader Partnership

Consumer champions Which? have now joined the thousands of customers who recognise that Cloudy2Clear Windows really are a business that you can TRUST. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has received the coveted 'Which Trusted Trader' status after going through a rigorous accreditation process entirely focussed on customer service.

Group Managing Director Marcus McGee believes that Which? have endorsed Cloudy2Clear's long standing company policy of delivering the highest standards possible at all times. 'Our service is simple. If your double glazing has misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although that obviously helps. Whilst a number of tradespeople perhaps don't focus on customer care as much as they should do, we make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle.

Locally Cloudy2Clear service Cardiff & surrounding areas and manager Phil Powell agrees that this approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated as both my customers and, obviously a body as nationally important as Which? now recognise.'

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Phil a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he'll be happy to help!

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HOLOCAUST REMEMBERED: 'Don't let history repeat itself' – a Muslim leader warns

Mayor Richard Young lights a candle in remembrance of genocide victims.

AT a ceremony that remembered the six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust, a Muslim leader in Bridgend has warned against the danger of history repeating itself – if everyone stands by and does nothing to stop extremist terror groups like ISIS.

Suleiman Hawas, chairman of Aberkenfig mosque, made the appeal when Bridgend County Borough Council marked Holocaust Memorial Day 2016, with a special commemoration to remember the victims of the Nazis' infamous 'Jewish solution' during World War Two and subsequent genocides.

In partnership with Bridgend College, the annual event was held in the Sony Theatre to restate a public commitment to remember the millions of Jews who were systematically slaughtered in the Holocaust, and the genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur.

"This year's theme is 'Don't stand by' – both from a historical perspective and looking at what you can do now to not stand by. Over the years, there have been countless examples of people who didn't stand by. People who instead stood up to help those being persecuted," a spokesperson said.

Stories of those who 'didn't stand by' were highlighted, including acts of bravery by Frank Foley, Sir Nicholas Winton MBE, Janucsz Korczak, and Miep Gies.

This year, Jack Davies and Phoebe Lewis, from Bridgend Youth Theatre led the ceremony, while Bridgend College performing arts students, Olivia Hopper and Ceri-Anne Thomas sang two solo items.

Videos were also shown of community representatives making their pledges not to stand by and allow acts of prejudice, hate and victimisation to take place. In addition, the Taking Flight Theatre Company demonstrated that standing by can have consequences.

The invited guests represented a wide cross-section of the community and included the police, religious and community groups, politicians, schools and college students.

As part of the ceremony, the traditional 'Seven Statements of Commitment' were read by prominent members of the community, a candle of remembrance was lit by Mayor of Bridgend County Borough, Coun Richard Young, and a 20-second silence was held to remember all those lost in the Holocaust and genocides.

BCBC's Coun Mel Nott said: "As a sign of respect and remembrance, marking Holocaust Memorial Day is extremely important to the council, and our annual event aims to commemorate victims, honour survivors and commit to tackling prejudice, discrimination and racism in the present day.

"The appalling moments in history can be used to create a society based on a respect for difference, not a hatred for it.

"Our challenge is to ensure that the experience and words of the victims and survivors of the Holocaust and of subsequent genocides, continues to inform our lives today and becomes a meaningful part of our future.

"Lessons must be learnt in order to challenge and overcome hatred and persecution in our communities, creating a safer future based on respect and understanding. We must not stand by and allow racism, discrimination, homophobia, exclusion and hate crime to take place in our communities."

• *The Holocaust, which took place between 1941 and 1945, claimed the lives of six million Jews who were murdered in extermination camps, concentration camps, ghettos, and in mass-shootings.*

For more information about the Holocaust, visit ***www.hmd.org.uk***

To view videos of Bridgend county borough's HMD event, visit YouTube and search 'Bridgend CBC'.

ABOVE:
From left: Coun Smith, cabinet member for regeneration and economic develoment; Coun Gregory, cabinet member for resources; Coun David, deputy leader; Janice Gregory AM; Mrs Annette Young, Mayoress; Coun Richard Young, Mayor of Bridgend County Borough; Taking Flight Theatre company actors; Suleman Hawas, chairman of Aberkenfig Mosque and Rhys Gronow of South Wales Police.

Olivia Hopper from Bridgend College.

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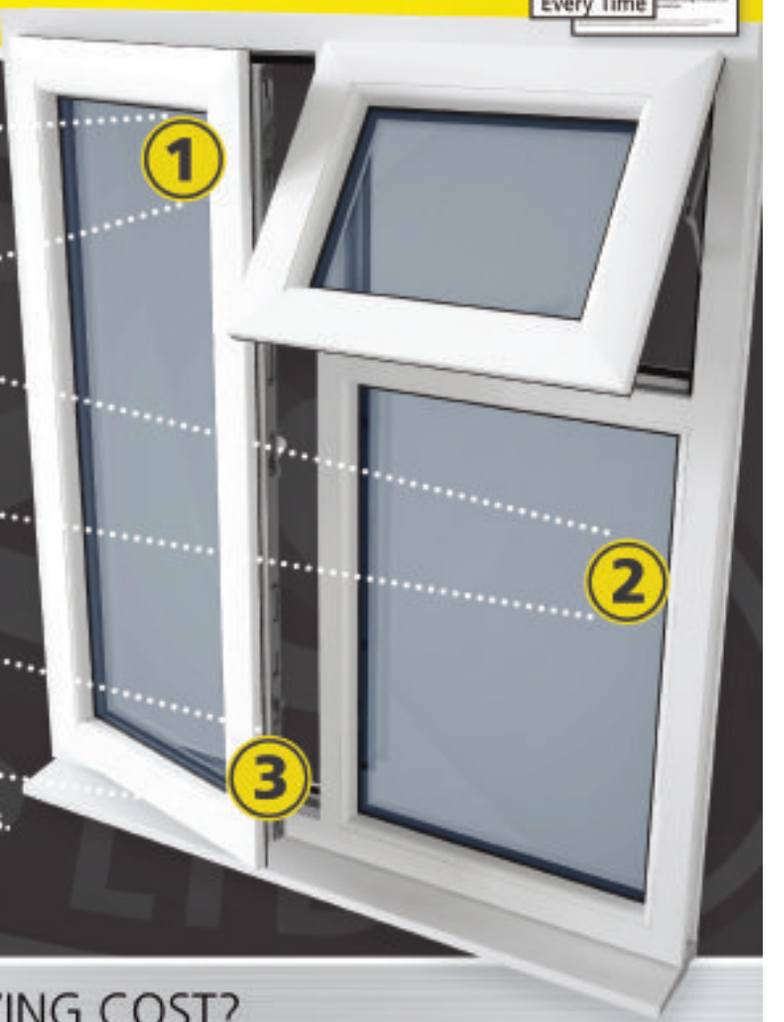

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Vale NFU Ladies going from strength to strength

VALE NFU Ladies (originally Bridgend NFU Ladies) has celebrated its 50th year.

Starting with just 22 members and an annual subscription of two shillings, the club was so successful that subscriptions increased to two shillings and sixpence, enabling the club to have good speakers and events.

Now in 2016, the club has just over 50 members and is going from strength-to-strength with excellent speakers, trips around the country and it is donating lots of money to different charities.

To celebrate the event a dinner was held at The Bear Hotel, Cowbridge on January 19, when all the stops were pulled out – the upstairs dining room really lent itself to the special occasion. The Bear Hotel excelled with its hospitality and service by the staff was exceptional.

Chairperson Ann Rees cut the celebration cake and it was distributed to all.

Mrs Ray Evans thanked the committee for organising the event.

The next meeting (as usual) will be held at Penllyn Village Hall on Tuesday, February 16 at 7.30pm. New members welcome.

JS

Defibrillator helping to save lives in High Street

Jane Hutt AM, Vaughan Gething AM, Richard Patterson and Bryan Foley.

LIFE-SAVING defibrillators are being promoted throughout the area this month in public places, such as Habanas in Barry High Street, open from 9am to late in the evening.

Vaughan Gething AM, Deputy Minister for Health, visited Habanas with Jane Hutt AM and Bryan Foley, lead volunteer for Barry First Responders who trained the high street businesses to use the defibrillator donated by Barry Rotary Club.

Jane Hutt said: "I understand Habanas' defibrillator was used on more than one occasion during the Christmas period, to help save lives in this busy shopping street in Barry. Wonderful service to the community!"

'Get your hat on' call to riders

FOLLOWING new legislation which came into effect at the beginning of January, equestrian supplier Countrywide is running an equine riding hat initiative over the half term break, to encourage young riders, as well as those who are more experienced, to wear the correct safety equipment.

By law, children aged 14 or younger must wear a hat to specific safety standards while riding on a road, but the new hat legislation requires people to get advice on the type of hat they have for their chosen discipline.

As part of the scheme, Countrywide is offering 20 per cent off all hats fitted and purchased throughout the campaign.

Free advice

AGE Connects Cardiff and Vale is holding a free legal advice session on February 16 (10am to 12pm) at the Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry.

If you are over 50 and worried about a legal matter (other than criminal law) come and chat to a legal team.

There will also be a health information session at the health shop, where you can talk to a health care professional from the community oral health team, Cardiff and Vale Trust, at the same time (February 16). No appointment is needed for either session; contact 01446 732385 for further information.

Back to Bacharach

AN evening of Burt Bacharach's music will be performed in Porthcawl's Grand Pavilion on Saturday, March 19.

The Welsh-based production includes West End singers accompanied by a 10-piece band, to recreate Bacharach's timeless hits.

It will be supporting the Breast Cancer Now charity by donating £1 from each ticket sold, and is committed to raising a minimum of £10,000. For further details call MP Promotions on 01614 947934/www.mppromotions.co.uk.

Penarth Local History Society

A TALK entitled 'The Drovers of Wales' will be presented by Peter Davies tonight at 7.30pm (Thursday, February 11) at All Saints' Church, Lesser Hall, Penarth. New members are always welcome.

Vale National Trust meeting

THE next meeting will be on Wednesday, February 17 at 7.30pm at The Duke of Wellington when Henry Thomas will speak on 'Art and the First World War'. New members are always welcome.

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Fun rally aims to raise funds for Ty Hafan

AUTOMOTIVE parts distributor, Fast Parts Wales, has launched the Fast Parts Wales, Ty Hafan, Rainbow Family Rally, aimed at meeting its £10,958 target for Ty Hafan's 'Pay for a Day' initiative.

Taking place from May 1-2 during the bank holiday weekend, the rally is part of the company's plans to create a fun-filled, family-oriented event to raise money for Welsh children's hospice, Ty Hafan, based at Sully, in the Vale of Glamorgan.

It offers comfort, care and support to life-limited children, young people and their families, helping them make the most of the time they have left together.

The charity needs over £4million every year to provide this unique service free of charge to families in Wales.

Participants in the family rally will have a budget of £300 to purchase a car and paint it in rainbow colours, being as creative as possible. The motor factor chose the rainbow theme to represent Ty Hafan's annual rainbow run in which powder paint is thrown at the participants.

The rally will take place over two days with the cars leaving Fast Part's Abercarn branch and then embarking upon a fun journey, culminating at Barry Island and Ty Hafan.

If successful, it will become an annual event, so Fast Parts is calling on the local community and the aftermarket industry to be as generous as possible and get behind this worthy cause by donating here: *www.justgiving.com/FastPartsTyHafanRainbowRally*.

With a £100 entry fee, a total of 20 cars can participate, which will cement £2000 towards the ambitious target.

For more information on how to get involved, to sponsor the event, or to sign up to be a participant, please contact Nathan Travis at promotions@fastpartswales.co.uk.

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WHAT'S ON AND WHERE?

Cowbridge Art Society

TODAY, Thursday, February 11, Cowbridge Art Society welcomes Cardiff artist and demonstrator Paul Arnott who will give a demonstration of digital art (all presentations are projected onto a large screen, so they can be seen by all).

On February 25 Dr Jac Saorsa, senior instructor at Cardiff's Broadway Drawing School will lead a practical drawing session, and always offers an interesting and informative evening.

The society meets each Thursday 7pm – 9pm and visitors and new members are welcome (occasional visitor's fee, £3). For details of the society's activities see www.cowbridgeartsociety.com.

'Fracking' film

***VOICES From The Gas Fields*, a documentary on the subject of 'fracking' will be shown by Sustainable Wick Community Group on Friday, February 12 at 7.30pm in Wick village hall.**

After the film, there will be an open debate with three guest speakers. Entry is free and open to all.

War Museum

THE Barry War Museum will be open from 10am-4pm on Sunday, February 14.

In pride of place is a photograph of American doughboys on King Square, Barry, taken in July 1918; we would also love to chat to those who have been in the services.

The Barry War Museum is also open each Wednesday from 2pm-4pm.

Valeways walks

ON Sunday, February 14 at 2.30pm, 'A Lover's Tale' starting at Ogmore Portobello car park (SS 874763).

On Tuesday, February 16 at 1.30pm, 'Marconi and coastal path' starting at Cosmeston country park outside the visitor centre.

On Wednesday, February 17 at 10.30am, the coffee shop strollers meet at Cosmeston country park outside the visitor centre.

On Sunday, February 21 at 2pm, 'Lavernock – Cosmeston circular' startin at Penarth cliff top park.

Exhibition at Cowbridge Old Hall

FEBRUARY'S art exhibition at Old Hall (Cowbridge Community College) is by the Cardiff Print Workshop (see www.cardiffprintworkshop.com).

The workshop's members exhibit prints made by various techniques and in a number of different styles, and many of the works are for sale.

The Old Hall is open during weekdays (including evenings) and admission is free. For opening times call 01446 773831.

All Saints' Lent lunch

ALL Saints' Church on Park Road, Barry invite you to come and enjoy some good company and food at their Lent Lunches, to be held in the church hall from 12pm to 1:30pm on four successive Thursdays, February 18 and 25, March 3 and 10.

Soup, crusty bread, a selection of cheeses and tea or coffee for £5, including a raffle. All proceeds to church funds. Everyone is welcome.

ROALD DAHL HONOURED AT RHS SHOW

THE Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) and Cardiff Council are busy putting the final plans in place ahead of this year's RHS Flower Show Cardiff.

From April 15–17, Bute Park will be awash with all things floral, bringing a vibrant celebration of spring to the heart of the Welsh capital.

At last year's record-breaking show, 25,800 visitors descended on the decorated showground, attracting everyone from keen gardeners and floral enthusiasts to families in search of a fun day out.

A floral focal point at this year's show will be the displays celebrating the Wonderful World of Roald Dahl, marking 100 years since the famous author was born in Llandaff, Cardiff.

Horticultural content capturing his imagination, creativity and some of his best-loved characters will be on display throughout the showground and will include a fantastical garden inspired by *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* created by award-winning designer Tony Smith, complete with a bubbling chocolate lake.

A 12ft BFG ('Big Friendly Giant') sculpture created by 'Out to Learn Willow' will greet visitors, and younger green-fingered enthusiasts will have the opportunity to take part in a 'Golden Ticket Family Trail' around the showground.

Speaking about this year's show, Katie Draper, show manager of RHS Flower Show Cardiff, said: "We have so much already planned for this year – it's set to be a truly spectacular event. From celebrating children's literary hero Roald Dahl, to food foraging and exploring plant life millions of years ago, there really is something for everyone, with even more content to be announced soon.

"The show really is a fantastic way to step in to spring and get some outdoor inspiration."

For more information or to buy advance tickets for the RHS Flower Show Cardiff, visit www.rhs.org.uk/cardiff.

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Mondays 5.30pm
Celtic Way Community Centre, Rhoose
Helen 01446 750738/ 07968 355119

Mondays 5:30pm and 7:30pm
Tabernacle Church Kings Square, Barry
Lorraine 01446 407002

Mondays 5:30pm and 7:30pm
Elfed Avenue United Church, Elfed Avenue, Penarth
Nia 07793 885581

Tuesdays 9:30am and 11.30am
Parish of Our Lady & St Illtyd, (Catholic Church), Ham Lane East, Llantwit Major
Helen 01446 750738/ 07968355119

Tuesdays 5:30pm and 7:30pm
Parish of Our Lady & St Illtyd, (Catholic Church), Ham Lane East, Llantwit Major
Helen 01446 750738/ 07968355119

Tuesdays 5:30pm
Holy Trinity Presbyterian, Church Hall, Trinity Street, Barry
Joanne 01446 404897

Tuesdays 6:30pm
The Old School, South Road, Sully CF64 5TG
Nicola - 01446 740394

Wednesdays 6:00pm
Cadoxton Methodist Church, Church Road, Barry
Joanne 01446 404897

Wednesdays 4:45pm and 6:45pm
St Francis Millennium Centre, Park Road, Porth-Y-Castell, Barry
Annamarie 01446 736534

Wednesday 3.30pm, 5.30pm, and 7.30pm
Bridgend Deaf Club, Coychurch Road, Bridgend
Helen - 01656 720963

Thursdays 10.15am
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Goosebumps goes bump in the night – *AND MAKES FOR A THRILLING WATCH!*

JACK BLACK'S recent career choices haven't really panned out. Having starred in well-received, but commercially unsuccessful films like *The D Train* and *Bernie*, Black's main success has come in the voice booth through the *Kung-Fu Panda* films (part three heading to cinemas this summer).

However, Black is in front of the camera in *Goosebumps*, a film based on R L Stine's series of books of the same name. When Zach (Dylan Minnette) moves to a new town, he meets his neighbour Hannah (Odeya Rush) – and her rather severe, over-protective father (Black).

When Zach and his friend Champ (Ryan Lee) enter Hannah's house thinking she's at risk from her father, they manage to unleash demons from the manuscripts of R L Stine – who is Hannah's father! Together, the four must work together to catch the demons before they take over the town and cause untold destruction...

The *Goosebumps* books, if you're of a certain age, tread the line between entertaining you and scaring you witless incredibly well. R L Stine's writing was clever and yet played to the teen audience with aplomb, quite a balancing act for any film based on these books to perform.

Incredibly, and perhaps surprisingly, the film achieves this with aplomb, an entertaining and wonderful film that keeps your attention and hits the right notes, whether its through jumps and chills, humour or spectacle.

The concept behind the story is a clever one – rather than adapt one of Stine's many books, they use the characters within a meta narrative that sees Stine as a character and the book's ghouls and terrors housed within his manuscripts.

There are the tropes of this genre that can often feel predictable

by GARETH JAMIESON
Follow Screen Talk on Twitter – @GEMScreenTalk

and by the numbers – the burgeoning love story, the life lessons, the shift in perceptions of characters – but here they are delivered with a nice twist or underplayed beautifully. You know where it's going but you don't mind sitting through it.

Given the fresh take on the narrative, the story moves through the gears with incredible ease and has much to offer, not least in the game and enjoyable performances from the whole cast.

While Jack Black's schtick can be hit and miss, here he is hugely enjoyable as the grouchy and misanthropic Stine, thrown headlong into the situation caused by the actions of the youngsters. Black is muted to a degree by the character, and it works for the best as what he does offer is a wonderfully watchable performance.

He is ably supported by Dylan Minnette's Zach, the new kid in town who is cool but not too cool, and the actor gives a likeable turn. Ryan Lee's Champ is very much the comedic sidekick, and Odeya Rush's Hannah is the love interest, but one who is given an interesting and intriguing twist.

With the rest of the cast populated by the likes of Amy Ryan, Jillian Bell, Timothy Simons and Ken Marino, there is no shortfall in terms of the cast, all of whom do a great job.

Director Rob Letterman has previous with Black, having helmed the misfiring *Gulliver's Travels*, but here it's his background in animation that comes to the fore, the film having both a gorgeous visual sense of identity, but also a degree of scope. There are several set-pieces that show ambition way beyond what you would expect, but tied into a sense of fun that is hard to argue with.

And that is what sets *Goosebumps* aside from the slew of teen-centric blockbusters that are becoming a mainstay of cinema – it is knowingly fun, doesn't take itself too seriously and offers up jumps and laughs in equal measure; in short, it's a scarily good effort.

VERDICT: Surprisingly far more satisfying and enjoyable than you would expect, *Goosebumps* makes for a really pleasing watch, its sense of fun palpable. It offers a few jumps, but nothing too scary, and the game turns from a solid cast pay dividends in this slice of family fun. *Highly recommended*.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Hotel Transylvania* (2012), *Gremlins* (1984).

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Marie Curie Cancer Care

AMs and pupils 'get behind the daffodil'– for charity's appeal

ASSEMBLY MEMBERS joined forces with schoolchildren to 'get behind the daffodil' at the official Wales launch of the Marie Curie Great Daffodil Appeal at the Senedd this week.

The Great Daffodil Appeal, now in its 30th year, is Marie Curie's biggest annual fundraising campaign and was launched by Minister for Finance and Leader of the House, Jane Hutt AM, and Marie Curie chief executive Dr Jane Collins.

The appeal is encouraging people in Wales to help the charity raise more money than ever before by simply giving a donation and wearing a Marie Curie daffodil pin, available from volunteers across the county, Superdrug stores, WH Smiths shops and Wyevale garden centres and many other locations throughout February and March.

The launch event gave Marie Curie the opportunity to showcase some of its work in Wales – most notably the work that the charity's 'Caring for Carers' project is doing to provide support for young carers.

Vale of Glamorgan AM, Jane Hutt, Minister for Finance and Leader of the House, said: "It is fantastic to see so many of my Assembly colleagues 'getting behind the daffodil' to support this year's Marie Curie Great Daffodil Appeal. I hope the people of Wales will follow suit by making a donation and wearing their Marie Curie daffodil with pride this February and March."

The event also saw some of Wales' top fundraising volunteers honoured for their support of the charity.

The Outstanding Contribution to Fundraising in Wales award was presented to the Cardiff fundraising group, who have raised over £75,000 for Marie Curie.

Sandra Chadwick was named north Wales Fundraiser of the Year; Nerys Thomas received the South Wales Fundraiser of the Year title; and the West Wales Fundraisers of the Year award went to the charity's Bridgend and Porthcawl fundraising group.

The awards were presented by Vaughan Gething AM, Deputy Minister for Health in ther Welsh Government.

He said: "I am delighted to once again help launch the Marie Curie Great Daffodil Appeal. From speaking to the nurses who are here today, it is clear that they really do go the extra mile to provide care and support for people when they need it the most and the funds raised through this appeal really do make a difference."

Simon Jones, of Marie Curie, said: "Every year, we are astounded by the level of support we receive from the people of Wales, and I hope we can rely on their backing once again, as we raise vital funds to support people living with a terminal illness, and their families, across Wales."

*Last year, volunteers in Wales helped raise more than £260,000 by collecting donations from members of the public. For more information about the Great Daffodil Appeal, or to volunteer to collect for Marie Curie, call 0845 601 3107; or visit www.mariecurie.org.uk/daffodil. To donate £5, text *DAFF to 70111; or call 0800 716 146 to donate over the phone.*

Penarth volunteer Nerys is honoured by Marie Curie

A MARIE CURIE volunteer from Penarth has been honoured for her fundraising achievements.

Nerys Thomas has been a valued volunteer within the fundraising department at the Marie Curie Cardiff & the Vale hospice for 15 years, giving up her time to assist in a variety of activities that help fund care and support of people living with a terminal illness, and their families.

Nerys was in attendance at the Senedd in Cardiff Bay earlier this week, to receive the south-east Wales Fundraiser of the Year Award at the launch of the Marie Curie Great Daffodil Appeal 2016.

Nerys took to the stage at the Senedd to receive her award from Deputy Minister for Health, Vaughan Gething AM. Intrepid Nerys has undertaken three charity treks to raise funds to support Marie Curie, conquering Mount Kilimanjaro, the Great Wall of China, and the Atlas Mountains in Morocco.

She also co-ordinates the placing of collection tins and daffodil boxes in local shops, schools and businesses, and provides office support to assist staff at the hospice fundraising office. Nerys also helps to raise awareness of the work of Marie Curie by giving talks to local groups.

Nerys said: "Fundraising is not something you do for the rewards, but this has been a lovely surprise. I'm totally overwhelmed."

Sara Bass, Marie Curie fundraising manager for Wales, said: "Nerys is particularly deserving of this award, as she is one of our star volunteers, whose contribution is invaluable.

"We hope this award goes some way to showing our gratitude for her amazing support."

Volunteers needed for Daffodil Week

THE Cowbridge Marie Curie fundraising group is looking for volunteers to help with collections during the Marie Curie Daffodil Week, which will take place from February 20-27.

Collecting is carried out between 10am to 4pm, in a maximum of two-hour 'shifts' at various locations in and around the High Street at Cowbridge.

If you have some time to spare for this worthy cause, please contact the Daffodil Week coordinator on 01446 771159. **MW**

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Community transfer 'could deliver better future for libraries'

CONSERVATIVES in the Vale have said they are going to be "watching closely" as five libraries in the Vale are handed over to local community groups.

The Vale Council is currently finalising the legal details of an asset transfer, so that Dinas Powys, Sully, Wenvoe, St Athan and Rhoose can be run by local bodies.

Welsh Conservative leader and South Wales Central regional AM, Andrew RT Davies said: "From the moment recommendations were published, the views of the local communities were emphatic and I joined them in urging the council to scrap their plans.

"This news is a welcome consolation for the many residents and community groups which have campaigned so defiantly to ensure the focal role of the local library was maintained.

"In many regards, this could deliver a better and more positive future for the libraries, as they will now be in the hands of the local community and people who care so passionately about the service it provides.

"Frankly, it should never have come to this, but as residents across the Vale we now need to hold the Vale Council to account to ensure they fully support the community groups over the years ahead."

The strength of protest varied from area to area. The chair of the Dinas Powys Community Library Group, Coun Chris Franks, said, "We all preferred for the council to continue to run the service, but we had to face reality.

"The alternative was closure or death by a thousand cuts. We are very sad that the excellent library staff were put in such difficult position.

"Our community library steering group is thriving and eager to get on with the job and meets monthly. We are preparing a legal constitution, policies, training and have a funding plan.

"Also, we have worked with the other library groups and have created a very good working relationship.

"To be fair, Vale Council staff have offered support and guidance," Coun Franks added.

***Coun Stuart Egan, Deputy Leader of the Vale Council, emphasised**: "Throughout this process, the council has made it very clear that we do not want to see any libraries in the Vale close.*

"The stark reality of the funding cuts imposed on the council by central government is that we cannot continue to support every facility in the same way that we always have. However, at no stage was a decision to close any libraries taken.

"Instead, we have undertaken nearly two years of work to identify the best way of ensuring these facilities remain open to those who value them, and are placed into the hands of those who will not only maintain the current service, but improve it.

"A huge amount of work has been undertaken by all those involved to bring us to this point. In the five community groups, we have found teams of individuals as passionate about the library service as we are.

"For the last eight months, we have been working with them to develop their plans for the libraries and have provided both training and support.

"If the transfer of the libraries is now able to go ahead, as we all hope it will, then I have no doubt that these groups will prove to be excellent custodians of these much valued assets," Coun Egan concluded.

Welsh Government unveils £85m funding package for Welsh NHS

THE number of nurse training places will increase by 10 per cent in 2016-17, as part of an £85m investment package by the Welsh Government in the next generation of healthcare professionals, the Health and Social Services Minister Mark Drakeford announced yesterday (Wednesday, February 10).

"Nurse training places will rise by 135 in 2016-17 to 1,418, an increase of 10 per cent, on top of the 22 per cent increase in 2015-16. This will be the highest level of nurse training places in Wales since devolution," he said.

The £85m investment package also includes an increase of more than 10 per cent in physiotherapy training places, on top of the 26 per cent increase in 2015-16; and 10 per cent more diagnostic radiography training places, on top of the 26 per cent in 2015-16, and a 5 per cent rise in therapeutic radiographers.

He reported that last year the Welsh Government increased the number of places available for clinical scientists by 52 per cent and this year will be expanding investment in healthcare science programmes, including additional training places in genomics, medical physics, biomedical engineering, molecular pathology, bioinformatics, microbiology and lab genetics.

In addition, investment to support the development of healthcare support workers will increase to £1.5m: "This will help people gain the right knowledge and skills to deliver care and support career development."

The package of funding would enable 2,697 new students to undertake education and training programmes in 2016-17 compared to 2,498 in 2015-16. Including those who will be continuing their education this means the total number of students and training places for 2016-17 is 7,384 compared to 6,881 in 2015-16.

New boiler means no more oil burning at Dyffryn Gardens

A NEW biomass boiler at Dyffryn Gardens is heating the only national tropical orchid collection in Wales.

The boiler will enable the property to stop burning oil and gas and move to a cleaner, renewable energy source – wood pellets made from the waste product of wood manufacture from mid-Wales.

The team at Dyffryn aims to develop the only national tropical orchid collection in Wales and the new energy set-up means they can embark on a journey to make this dream a reality.

Dyffryn staff haven't yet decided which genera of orchid to display because there are many possibilities, and it will take time to find and propagate the rarer varieties.

However, the team will be making an immediate start on expanding the current tropical orchid collection and growing orchids and carnivorous plants that would have been grown by the original owner of the gardens, Reginald Cory.

Chris Flynn, Dyffryn's head gardener said: "Dyffryn is at a really exciting stage in its illustrious history. We have lots of plans for the gardens in the next few years and adding a new tropical orchid collection is really exciting.

"Wales doesn't have a national tropical orchid collection yet, so we can really fill a gap in this area of horticulture."

Currently, Dyffryn uses around 40,000 litres of oil per year to heat the mansion house, glasshouses, offices and café. Other green initiatives being installed on site are ground source heat pumps and solar panels.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Porthcawl Floral Arrangement Society

ON Wednesday, February 17 at 7.30pm at Awel-y-Mor Senior Citizens' Centre there will be a flower demonstration by Carola Keanne. Doors open 6.30pm: a warm welcome to everyone.

Penarth bookshop

GRIFFIN BOOKS, Penarth, has two author events planned for February.

During half term, a drop-in storytelling and activity session takes place in the shop with Swansea-based children's writer Helen Docherty, author of *The Snatchabook,* who will be reading from and signing copies of her latest title for younger children, *Do You Remember,* on Thursday, February 18 between 10.30am and 12.30pm. Admission is free, with refreshments provided.

On Friday, February 26, debut author Julia Forster will be at Waterloo Tea, Stanwell Road, to discuss her novel *What A Way To Go*, set in the 1980s.

Doors open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start; tickets are now available from Griffin Books at £5 each, including complimentary snacks, and a discount on book purchases.

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The history beneath our feet: MINES OF THE VALE

by BRIAN KEITCH

WHO would guess now that Wenvoe, St Hilary, Colwinston, Llangan and Llanhari had a claim – albeit minor – of being mining villages?

There was no coal *per se* there (unless you stretch the geographic boundaries to Llantrisant, Cefn Cribbwr and Margam) but there is lead and iron ore.

There is some evidence that the Romans had a dig or two around the area – and the presence of small quantities of galena (lead ore) and haematite (iron ore) were raised hundreds of years ago.

South of the coalfield, there was an orefield of haematite stretching from Llanhari in the west to Rhydri and Draethen in the east. In addition, there was a significant outcrop at Coed y Cymdda between Cwrt yr Ala and Balas Farm near Wenvoe (it was gobbled up by Alps Quarry).

Apart from Llanhari itself, there were mines in the vicinity at Trecastell, Hendy, Mwyndy, Llwyn Saer, the Bute Pit and Maendy. In the second half of the 19th century, when the mines were at their peak – supplying the iron and steel works of south Wales – hundreds of thousands of tons of high quality haematite were mined – the most productive period being between 1870 and 1874 when almost half a million tons were extracted (422,892 tons to be exact).

However, the advent of cheap ore from overseas saw the local market collapse and by 1892, production was minimal and the mines closed. Large scale Ordnance Survey maps show clues where these mines were – with notations such as: old mine, old engine house, trial pit etc. Relics such as the Llwyn Saer engine house (now grade-2 listed building) and Llangan engine chimney (lead) crumble away as the last vestiges of an unlikely employer in the agricultural land that is the Vale of Glamorgan.

Expectations ran high with the discovery of rich iron ore deposits in pockets here – such as the case of the Wenvoe Iron Ore Company: "The Wenvoe Iron Ore Company... are understood to be disposing of their product as rapidly as it can be supplied... some orders have been declined in consequence of large demand, this looks like prosperity." (*Mining Journal 29/1/1859*.)

Official statistics record the output from Wenvoe between 1863-5 as amounting to 18,149 tons of ore. Then nothing! The pocket had been exhausted.

Today, a massive quarry has all but removed the Wenvoe iron mine. It appears the company – despite its name – turned to quarrying limestone.

One mine, however, survived until as recently as 1976 – that at Llanhari which served the East Moors Steelworks in Cardiff Docks – and in doing so kept a short section of the Cowbridge Railway in operation until 1977, after the last train from Cowbridge goods yard had quietly chuffed off back in 1965.

Then there was lead, which also occurred in veins in limestone, especially around Cowbridge.

Lead was apparently discovered in Colwinston as early as 1727 by a Cornish miner named John Roberts. Colwinston could boast as many as three mines – one off Twmpath lane – and the other two under the A48 road on Crack Hill. Apparently some of the brick arches are still extant.

The hills could still be alive with the sound of mining! In 1984, Highwood Resources Ltd, of Canada submitted a plan to prospect for silver and lead in the parish of Colwinston. The locals had none of it.

On the west side of Cowbridge, St Hilary took the eye of prospectors. A number of lead shafts and trial pits were sunk. The 1877 Ordnance Survey map shows the Bell Mine, and later editions show a rash of 'old lead shafts' were sunk in and around Coed y Seler.

There was also the curious 'Ianto Frank's Cave' near his cottage. It may be limestone country, but caves are rather rare in the Bro. To the north-west, at Llangan, was another lead mining area.

Of the Tewgoed mine, Gwallter Mechain wrote in 1815: 'Here the grand vein runs nearly east and west through the limestone, and leading to the noon sun. On the south side of the vein is a bluish calcareous earth called liman.

'The vein itself called the red vein, from the colour of its contents, has nodules of lead ore imbedded in it, with a rider of calcareous freestone. Three parallel veins, called the blue veins, run obliquely from the north-west into this red vein.

'The ore of the blue veins is galena, or laminar potter's ore. Near the junction of the blue veins with the transverse red vein, a shaft was sunk, and a rich belly of steel-grained ore was discovered. This induced the miners to sink two other shafts near the junction of the other two blue veins with the red with equal success.'

Further remains of the lead mines in the parish of Llangan can be found near Gelliaraul Farm (including the 30-foot high chimney stack). Records show that as far back as the 1660s significant amounts of lead from local mines were shipped from Aberddawan and Cardiff.

In the 19th century, companies were formed to work the mines. In 1852, Tewgoed Mine was started again; the Glamorgan Mining Company was formed and although between 1877-78 141 tons were enough to create the Glamorgan Consolidated Lead Mining Company (with a capital of £30,000) it too failed, and it seems that soon after lead mining around Cowbridge ceased.

For the keen geologist, lumps of galena can be found in outcrops of limestone – such as the eastern end of Sully Island (matt black when oxidised but grey-silver when chipped open).

Finally, *there was – according to local tradition – an 'Alabaster Cave' on the foreshore at Penarth, whence blocks of the rock found their way into the construction of the 'Alabaster Church' (St Catherine's) at Baglan.*

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
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Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012

Affecting setting of a Listed Building/
Cais (au) sy'n effeithio ar leoliad Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No:/ Rhif y cais:	2015/00828/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig:	Proposed detached double garage
Location:/Lleoliad:	Garden Cottage, The Rookery, Court Drive, Llansannor
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig	Affecting Llansannor Court, Grade 1

May affect a Public Right of Way/
Gall effeithio ar Hawl Tramwy Cyhoeddus

Application No:/ Rhif y cais:	2016/00063/OUT
Proposal:/Cynnig:	Erection of 5 no. two/single storey 4/5 bedroom dwellings with garages and diversion of public right of way
Location:/Lleoliad:	Land South east of Amberley House, Llantwit Road, Wick

Departure from Development Plan/
Gwyro o'r Cynllun Datblygu

Application No:/ Rhif y cais:	2016/00063/OUT
Proposal:/Cynnig:	Erection of 5 no. two/single storey 4/5 bedroom dwellings with garages and diversion of public right of way
Location:/Lleoliad:	Land South east of Amberley House, Llantwit Road, Wick

Details may be inspected for 21 days at the address given below, or via **http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/**

Gall manylion eu harchwilio am 21 diwrnod yn y cyfeiriad a roddir isod, neu drwy **http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/**

Dated / Dyddiedig: 11 February, 2016

V. L. Robinson
Operational Manager, Regeneration and Planning, Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry. CF63 4RT

RAISING THE ROOF TO UPGRADE CONSERVATORIES

Advertising Feature

Once the preserve of the wealthy who wanted to cultivate exotic species of flora, today it's estimated that around one in five UK homes have a conservatory.

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However, some homeowners found that the full glare of the sun in summer and chilly temperatures in winter made older conservatories uncomfortable, with the only solution being a costly rebuild.

The good news is that building technology has moved on and, as with glazing, there are some thermally efficient roof options now on the market that can be added to the existing conservatory structure.

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A straightforward upgrade for those who want to keep an uninterrupted view of the blue skies up above is to opt for a modern, low emissivity (low-e) 'Activ', energy efficient glass roof.

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For a more contemporary feel, there is a third option called the LivinRoof. This modern roof combines the sleek lines of a glass roof with the shade and thermal efficiency of a solid conservatory roof to create something that looks and feels very contemporary.

With the LivinRoof, entire panels can be replaced with glass to create a hybrid solid and glass roof meaning the homeowner can choose where to have shaded areas and where to have more light.

Once again there is the option to plaster the interior ceiling and add down-lighters. The LivinRoof also comes with the option of adding orangery detailing to enhance the interior and exterior styling of the conservatory.

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OBITUARY - Ewenny's oldest resident dies aged 100

Nantymoel Junior School, 1922. Tom is in the back row (centre) wearing the lace collar.

THOMAS NOEL WILLIAMS, Ewenny's oldest resident, died on January 31, aged 100 years and six months.

Thomas Noel Williams ('Tom' to friends, 'Noel' in the family) was born on July 25, 1915. He and an elder sister, Evelyn, were orphaned at an early age and were brought up by their grandparents in Oakfield Terrace, Nantymoel.

He left school and went down the Ocean Colliery at the age of 14, but most of his time underground was spent at the Wyndham Colliery.

While underground, he was involved in two mining accidents and had to leave the pit due to suffering from a perforated ear drum and astigmatism. He then worked delivering bread for the Gwalia Stores and subsequently for Ogmore Vale Bakeries.

When the Gwalia Stores building was moved to St Fagans, he was invited to the opening ceremony as one of the oldest surviving workers at the store.

On January 31, 1942, he married Phyllis Thomas of Waun Wen, Nantymoel. They moved to Bridgend in 1948 and took over the shop in Mackworth Street, which they happily ran until 1972.

He started work as the caretaker of the nursing home in Quarella Road and then at the Cottage Hospital in Merthyr Mawr Road, where he remained until his retirement. Part of his duties there was to act as a porter and assist in lifting patients onto the operating table.

He told of many patients being surprised to see the gardener all scrubbed up in surgical greens just as they were going under the anaesthetic!

On retirement, he and Phyllis moved to Ewenny, but, sadly, Phyllis passed away in 1989.

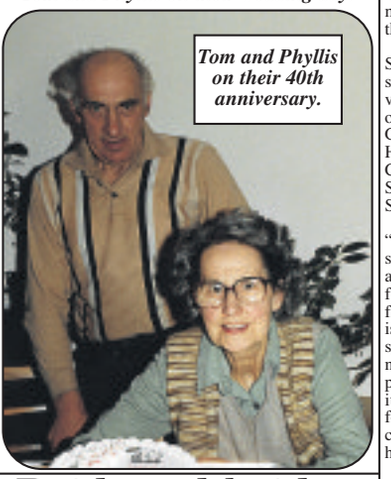
Tom's main hobbies were gardening, bowling and ballroom dancing, all of which he enthusiastically undertook until he was in his mid-90s.

He always had a zest for life and was a committed member of Hope Baptist Chapel, attending services every Sunday. He also regularly attended the Evergreen Club in Bridgend, where he was given a surprise party to celebrate his 100th birthday in July 2015.

Tom passed away on January 31 after a short illness. He is survived by daughter Elaine, son Ian and grandchildren Sali and Rhodri.

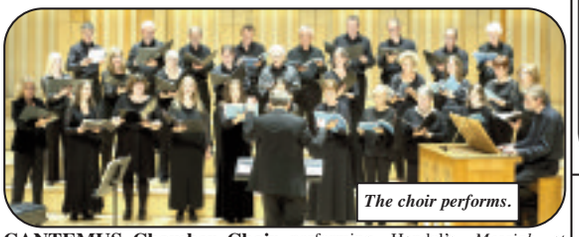
Tribute by SALI JENKINS

Tom and Phyllis on their wedding day.



Tom and Phyllis on their 40th anniversary.

Ewenny Priory date for Cantemus choir



The choir performs.

CANTEMUS Chamber Choir will open Ewenny Arts Festival 2016 on February 27 with its first-ever performance at Ewenny Priory Church.

Performing unaccompanied in the 12th century Norman church, which was originally built as a Benedictine priory, the choir will perform a variety of spiritual pieces from the Renaissance to the present day. The theme of the concert will be 'The Road to Easter'.

The main work will be Italian composer Ildebrando Pizzetti's *Requiem*, based on Gregorian chant and composed in 1922. Also included will be Henry Purcell's famous setting of 'Hear My Prayer', Antonio Lotti's moving 'Crucifixus' and William Byrd's joyful 'Laudibus in Sanctis'.

Comprising some 30 singers drawn mainly from the Vale of Glamorgan and Cardiff, Cantemus has gone from strength to strength in recent years, performing Handel's *Messiah* at Buckingham Palace in 2014 and releasing an acclaimed CD of Christmas music, *Nativity*, last autumn, which featured extensively on Classic FM. The choir has also appeared on The One Show on BBC One.

Cantemus' music director, Huw Williams, said: "I'm delighted to be performing at Ewenny for the first time with Cantemus. The Priory Church has a wonderful acoustic for unaccompanied voices.

"We'll be singing a programme of uplifting spiritual music, perfect for relaxing on a winter's evening! I hope plenty of people will come to hear us and enjoy the atmosphere in this stunning building."

Tickets for the concert, £13, are available from Ewenny Pottery on 01656 653020; from Helen Morgan (01656 667047); or Allison Felton (01656 663878). The concert will start at 7.30pm.

Bridgend bridge club results

THE results for recent events are:

Wednesday, February 3: 1st Graham Jones and Irene Thomas, 2nd Alan Heath and Rob Foreman, 3rd Tony Disley and John Evans. Winners on handicap Alan Heath and Rob Foreman.

Thursday, February 4: 1st Gareth Jenkins and Martin Brawn, 2nd Leila O'Hagan and Diane Reynolds, 3rd David Newman and Jan Watts. Winners on handicap Leila O'Hagan and Diane Reynolds.

Friday, February 5: 1st Tony Disley and John Evans, 2nd Jenny Vaughan and Irene Thomas, 3rd Jane Brook and Wendy Williams. Winners on handicap Tony Disley and John Evans.

Regular club nights take place on Wednesday and Friday evenings at Nolton Church Hall.

Play is scheduled to commence at 7pm so it helps if players arrive at least 10 minutes early.

On Thursday afternoons at 2pm, also at Nolton Church Hall, there is a gentle duplicate session. Master points are now awarded but it remains a relaxed occasion where players enjoy their bridge.

TG

'Quit and be a winner' Olympic track star urges local smokers

Olympic star Christian Malcolm is teaming up with Stop Smoking Wales.

IT'S not often you hear an Olympic star say that winners quit but that's what Christian Malcolm is telling smokers in Maesteg.

The track hero is playing 'Coach Quit' for Stop Smoking Wales, in a bid to encourage smokers to give up smoking to help achieve their fitness goals in 2016.

With the Six Nations, Euro 2016, Olympics and Paralympics tipped to inspire sports fans in Maesteg to get active this year, the Commonwealth Games medallist is advising smokers that the health benefits from quitting will mean sporting activity is more achievable when you're smoke-free.

The Newport-born star, who won a Commonwealth Games 200m silver in Kuala Lumpur and a bronze in Delhi for Team Wales, revealed that smokers who quit using the free NHS support on offer from Stop Smoking Wales are four times more likely to quit than those who go it alone.

There are free local Stop Smoking Wales sessions in Maesteg at venues including ASDA on Castle St, Bron Y Garn Surgery in Maesteg Hospital, Maesteg Sports Centre, Woodlands Surgery, and Llynfi Surgery.

Christian (32) said: "Growing up, I was surrounded by smokers among my friends and family and I've seen first-hand how difficult it is to quit. Much like in sport, having a support network around you to push you when you need it and help you stay focused on your aims is crucial to giving up the habit.

"In sport, winners never quit. When it comes to smoking, quitting is the only way to win.

"Sport has been a part of my life for as long as I can remember and I know for a fact that I could not have got to where I am today without a coach to support me and a team to share my goals.

"Having a coach is massively important; they build your confidence, help you to correct your bad habits and provide you with crucial one-to-one support. If you're looking to quit smoking, you'll need the same.

"It's great to be part of a campaign focused on encouraging people to become healthier and try their hand at sports and I'm proud to have an active role in helping these people as Coach Quit."

Helen Sullivan, senior Stop Smoking Advisor at Stop Smoking Wales, said: "We are thrilled to have Christian on board as our Coach Quit to offer advice and support to those looking to reach their goals.

"It's going to be hard to get away from sport in Wales in 2016. The Six Nations is just around the corner, while our footballers, Olympians and Paralympians will dominate the summer.

"These events will inspire thousands of ordinary people to exercise, but smokers could feel left out as their habit hinders them in reaching their personal best. Stop Smoking Wales advisors act as personal Coach Quits for smokers. They're specially trained to coach you to overcome cravings and beat smoking for good."

Stop Smoking Wales is a free specialist NHS health service that provides sessions for smokers who want help to give up smoking.

People who are interested in receiving free help from Stop Smoking Wales can visit stopsmokingwales.com or call 0800 085 2219.

Porthcawl Bridge

THE club teams championship for the Margaret Thomas Bowl was won by John Cobby, Liam Sheridan, Rob Charlesworth, and John Beard, with the runners-up Connie Dick, Pat Cogbill, Trish Saunders, and Sue Anthony.

Other results at the club: Saturday, January 23: First, Maurice and Margaret Harris; second, Peter and Sandie Jenkins.

Thursday, January 28: First, Dil and Marian Evans; second, Emer Disley and Betty Longley.

Saturday, January 30: First, Tony Haworth and John Beard; second, Connie Dick and Marian Evans.

Thursday, January 28: First, Tony Haworth and Keith Davison; second, Rob Charlesworth and John Beard.

The monthly seminar will be held on Thursday, February 18, when the topic will be 'Splinter Bids'. The club meets twice a week – Saturday and Thursday at the Awel-y-Mor centre 7pm–10.15pm; visitors welcome at any time.

To contact the club, call secretary Trish on 01656 785794.

TH

Tom (14) is selected for under-16 golf squad

A JUNIOR member of Pyle and Kenfig Golf Club has been congratulated on his selection for Wales under-16.

At 14, Tom Peet is one of the youngest players in the squad of eight.

The tournament will be played over the Hilton Belfast Temple Patrick Golf and Country Club course between March 28 – April 2.

The tournament involves Wales, Ireland, Scotland and Holland.

Club captain Chris John said: "On behalf of myself, the committee and members of Pyle & Kenfig, I wish to congratulate Tom and wish him every success."

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EVERY adult in the UK should consider making a Will, and here are some of the reasons why:

- Without a Will, the state directs who inherits your estate, so the people you wish to benefit may get nothing.
- Without a Will, if you are married, you may think that your estate will pass to your spouse in any event, but this is not necessarily the case.
- If you are not married to your partner, the law does not automatically recognise partners as having the same rights as husbands, wives and civil partners, and your partner may get nothing.
- If you have children, there may be uncertainty about who will look after or provide for them, should you die.
- Certain people could make a claim on your estate if you have no Will, because they may depend upon you financially.
- Inheritance tax issues may arise if not addressed in your Will.

Wills should be kept up to date and renewed upon any change of circumstances; for example, marriage, divorce, separation, death of a loved one, or upon having a child.

Excluding certain beneficiaries in your Will may also cause potential difficulties as they may have the right to make a claim against your estate.

Special care is needed if you exclude persons who might expect to benefit under your Will.

Ensure that you have a Will in place and that it is up to date, to avoid any undesired consequences and complications.

Carli Evans is a solicitor with Messrs Passmores Solicitors and a member of Solicitors for the Elderly, a specialist panel of solicitors dealing with elderly client matters and the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners.

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HOW many people realise there are beneficial effects to owning a cat, or even just being in its company?

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Children brought up with cats suffer from fewer allergies. It is so sad that when someone becomes pregnant, they are sometimes advised to get rid of their cat. You can pick up more diseases by eating seafood and meat that has not been thoroughly cooked etc. Hygiene is the key word!

Children who grow up with cats will have more respect for animals and people as they get older; it gives them responsibility and companionship.

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Expert advice can avoid Will disputes

BRENDAN SWEENEY of David Prosser & Co Solicitors writes:

It is estimated that 60 per cent of the UK population do not have a Will. A Will takes effect on your death and is an instruction as to what is to happen to your estate.

Probate disputes and challenges to Wills are becoming a growth area which often leads to substantial costs.

We now live in a world where family relationships are often very complex and expert advice regarding the drafting of a Will is essential. A professional advisor can also advise you in relation to inheritance tax and how you plan to minimise potential liabilities to inheritance tax

It is important when people make Wills that they are fully aware of their duties and financial responsibilities when they make a Will and ensure that they comply with the technicalities that are required to have a valid Will.

The cost of a professionally-drafted Will after taking advice is considerably less than the costs that can be incurred if there is a dispute regarding your financial affairs after your death.

Substantial costs can also be saved by taking professional advice early and putting in place Powers of Attorney whereby you appoint trusted people to make decisions about your property and financial affairs and health and welfare if your lose capacity.

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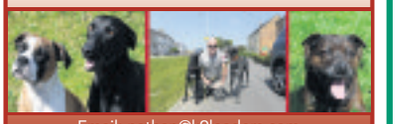

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Bryntirion Comprehensive shows off netball skills

JANUARY 27 saw the regional Anne Smart netball tournament hosted at Porthcawl Comprehensive School.

Six teams from the Bridgend Region entered, including Bryntirion, Cynffig, Porthcawl, Brynteg, St Clares and Pencoed. Throughout the day, the Bryntirion team continued to demonstrate their remarkable netball skills.

All players representing the school were outstanding, convincingly beating all of the other competing schools, resulting in them going through to the next county stage of the Anne Smart tournament. Well done girls!

Year-7 v Ydderwen

BRYNTIRION made a great start to the game, with a quick goal from Elin Morgan followed by some great defensive play by Leah Cooke, Amy Cureton and Isobel Griffiths.

The Bryntirion girls worked well to get free of their players but Ydderwen fought back determined to get ahead, resulting in a 2-2 draw at half-time.

The second half saw Bryntirion girls quickly moving the ball into their shooting circle, setting up a lovely goal for Caitlin Morgan.

Bryntirion took lots of interceptions in the centre court as Ydderwen tried to outplay them, Ffion Morgan and Imogen Quinn making the most of stray balls.

Ffion fed the circle well and despite excellent defence, Bryntririon finished the game, winning 4-3. An excellent display of netball. Player of the match went to Ffion Morgan (centre).

Year-9A and year-10 v Porthcawl

ANOTHER two enjoyable matches to watch during which all Bryntirion players worked exceptionally hard.

The first match saw the year-9A Bryntirion team creating opportunities down the court and using the space efficiently. Centre court players Martha Hill and Holly Saunders demonstrated skilful attacking and defending movements, seamlessly feeding the ball into the Lucy Nota and Jasmine Lewis.

Great netball from both teams, with the game ending 7-11 to Bryntirion with Lucy Nota achieving player of the match.

The year-10 game can only be described as end to end netball, both teams showing discipline and skill throughout. At half - time the score was 5-5, as a result of some fantastic shooting from Bryntrion's Jess Burford.

The second half was similar to the first, with the ball being carried effortlessly through the centre court from both the Porthcawl and Bryntirion players. The game ended in a nail-biting victory for Bryntirion, 8-9.

BETH EVANS

Penybont under-18s in seven goal heaven!

AFTER eight weeks without a game, Penybont under-18s extended their unbeaten run to five matches with a comfortable 7-0 win over Cowbridge.

Penybont made a strong start to the game and only needed five minutes to open the scoring through a superb individual goal.

The ball broke loose to right back Connor James who fired Penybont in front with a 25 yard rocket.

Heavy rain now started to fall which made conditions difficult for the players and the match went through a quiet spell with both sides cancelling each other out.

But on the 35 minute mark, Morgan Ley did well to hold up the ball up in the right hand corner of the pitch which allowed Connor James to make a run into the box to score his and Penybont's second goal of the match.

Penybont then took complete control of the game on the stroke of half-time when central midfielder Oliver Waagenes played a ball to the left of the pitch which found Robert Symons after a Cowbridge defender lost his footing and slipped.

Symons then punished this defensive error by calmly slotting the ball into the bottom right hand corner of the goal to give Penybont a 3-0 lead going into half-time.

Penybont starved their opponents of possession in the first 15 minutes of the second half and this near enough confirmed the victory for the home side.

The good football continued when substitute Evan Denscombe scored Penybont's fourth goal from close range after being assisted by fellow substitute Matthew Symons.

The two substitutes also combined well for Penybont's fifth goal. This time it was Evan Denscombe with the assist and Matthew Symons with the goal.

On the 75th minute, Denscombe continued his fine impact on the game with a strike from outside the area for Penybont's sixth of the match.

The seven goal rout was soon completed by striker Alex Vidler who showed good strength to win a goal line scramble to seal an impressive 7-0 win.

Overall, Penybont outplayed a Cowbridge side that offered very little up front. Hopefully, Penybont can take their recent good form into their next fixture against top of the table Llantwit Major - well done!

TP

BRIDGEND SPORTS UNDER-10S FACE PENCOED TEST

BRIDGEND Sports under-10s were fortunate to have an away game at Pencoed as the availability of a 3G pitch enabled the game to go ahead.

Pencoed are a club who for many years have led the way for clubs in the development of mini and junior rugby. The club has seen a number of their players go on to gain full Wales and British Lions honours.

Bridgend Sports started the game and were quickly into the action. They soon settled into their stride moving the ball along the line to put players in space. Pencoed's first up tackling initially caused the Sports to go to ground but excellent technique at the ruck by Ieuan Pilliner ensured the ball was recycled and Callum Lewis was given room to use his speed to beat a number of defenders to run in the first score from the halfway line.

From the restart pressure told and possession was quickly lost to their opponents; the Sports mounted several attacks through Tom Chick and Mason Balmer but it was left to Cian John who, with his pace, was causing havoc in the home side defence.

He was half checked by a tackle 10 metres from the line but he spun out of it to claim the try.

Pencoed mounted an attack from the next restart; initially they made good ground before Callum Lewis for the Sports spotted an opportunity for an intercept pass. He made no mistake and sprinted in from the halfway line.

Pencoed continued to pressure but were unable to escape the solid tackling from Bridgend Sports players with Dewi Worrall, Harri Williams, Joel Rogers, Ieuan Pilliner and Iestyn John prominent.

The Sports rounded off the half when Callum Lewis claimed a hat trick, Dewi Worrall gathered the ball in open play and drove forward.

Joel Rogers supported and passed on to Iestyn John who changed the angle of attack. He linked with Harri Williams who made ground before Callum Lewis took an inside pass to score for the away team to lead 0-4.

Pencoed fought back early in the second half by scoring the first try. They tried extremely hard to close the 1-4 gap but could not find a way through an organised Sports side.

Their early second half lead was soon cancelled out as Mackenzie Dent received the ball 15 metres out, following good work from Mason Balmer, Dewi Worrall and Harri Williams which released him into a gap. Mackenzie Dent charged forward and used his strength to force his way over in the corner.

The game entered a hectic period with both sides making errors. Pencoed pressured, forcing the Sports to concede a number of penalties before the Sports broke out of defence with an excellent run from Cadan Hayes who took play deep into the Pencoed half.

This enabled Bridgend Sports to put together some positive flowing rugby which saw them run in a further two tries, one from Cian John and a fourth from Callum Lewis at the end of the game to make the final score Pencoed 1, Bridgend Sports 7.

Squad: Bailey Llewellyn Hopkins, Cadan Hayes, Callum Lewis, Cian John, Dewi Worrall, Harri Williams, Iestyn John, Ieuan Pilliner, Joel Rogers,Lowri Long, Mackenzie Dent, Mason Balmer, Matthew Gates, Morgan Edwards, Thomas Chick, Tyler Burton.

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Pancakes in the air at residential home!

ON Pancake Tuesday in RMBI Albert Edward, the residents and staff took part in 'tossing' pancakes, with more than one ending up on the floor.

"Great fun was had by all and we have all eaten far too many pancakes!" a spokesperson said.

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Porthcawl's cycling-friendly themed cafe is on the road

RIGHT: from left to right: Coun Charles Smith, Tracy Mortimer, (BCBC), Susan Longthorn and Andrea Hewett, UK Steel Enterprise.

A NEW cycling-friendly café in Porthcawl is up and running – with the help of a 'Kick-start' grant from Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) and UK Steel Enterprise.

Opened only a few months ago with the help of £1,000 from the kick-start fund, the Broom Wagon café on Station Hill has already attracted a wide range of clientele from the community and from visitors.

The café is open seven days a week and caters for keen cyclists by providing bike locks, track pumps with spare tubes and C02 canisters to purchase.

Owner Susan Longthorn describes the style of the café as "shabby chic", and believes the business is fulfilling a demand in the town. She and husband Paul spent considerable time researching and identifying the needs of the local residents and visitors and discovered a gap in the market.

Susan said: "We are aiming to cater for the whole community; we're child-friendly, we welcome local groups, cyclists and any visitors to the town. Our aim is to go the extra mile to offer people an enjoyable experience."

Traditional Sunday lunches are also served as well as cooked breakfasts. Customers can even bring their own wine, for a small corkage charge.

Susan said: "Paul is a very keen cyclist and we were keen to give the new venture a cycling theme. The name refers to the vehicle which follows a cycle race, collecting the stragglers!"

Andrea Hewett of UK Steel Enterprise said: "We are delighted to support the Broom Wagon which is providing a service to the local community and we wish it every success."

Coun Charles Smith, BCBC cabinet member for regeneration and economic development, said: "This local business is another great example of why the Kick-start grant was put in place, giving start-up or new businesses a helping hand.

"As a keen leisure and commuting cyclist myself, I welcome this cafe's contribution to the cycling scene, while noting that it is also highly popular with non-cyclists.

"It's a fantastic feature of the newly regenerated Station Hill area and I'm pleased to see that it's thriving."

The Broom Wagon has more information and regular updates on its Facebook and Twitter pages.

Kelly's bungee jump for club!

ON Sunday, February 21, Kelly Hall will be embarking on a 160 foot charity bungee jump at Bristol Waterfront to raise money for her disabled and mental health football club in Bridgend.

Bridgend-based Kelly with the help of her husband, ex-Paralympian Phil, run the family club that currently has over 20 players with various disabilities and mental health problems, and run training sessions three times a week.

They enter their team in tournaments around the UK and now in the Street Football Wales League, and Kelly is doing this bungee jump so that they can hopefully take their team to Germany to compete in an international for the disabled.

As the club doesn't get any financial support, it has to constantly fundraise by doing different events like a bungee jump.

If you would like to support the club, please contact Kelly on 07960 201539 or by email: bridgenddfcinclusive sports@outlook.com.

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• BOX BAY FRONT
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• THREE BEDROOMS & COT ROOM
• FAMILY BATHROOM
• ENCLOSED GARDEN
• LANE ACCESS
• NO CHAIN
• ER = E
£94,950

NEW

REGENT STREET, BARRY
• BAY FRONTED FORE-COURTED
• LIVING,DINING ROOM
• FITTED KITCHEN
• GROUND FLOOR BATHROOM
• FIVE BEDROOMS (ACCESSIBLE VIA FOURTH)
• NO CHAIN
• IN NEED OF MODERNISATION
• (SOLD AS SEEN - SERVICES NOT TESTED)
• ER = E
£99,950

NEW

LALESTON CLOSE, BARRY
• MID LINKED-SPLIT LEVEL
• WELL MAINTAINED
• GRND FLR:W.C. CLOAK,BEDROOM
• LOWER GRD: FITTED KITCHEN,LIVING/DINING
• FIRST FLR: TWO DOUBLE BEDROOMS
• FAM. BATHROOM
• PARKING IN BLOCK/STREET PARKING
• UPVC DG - GC HEATING
• NO CHAIN
£104,950

NEW

GEORGE STREET, BARRY
• BAY FRONTED MID TERRACED
• TWO REC. ROOMS
• KITCHEN/BREAKFAST
• THREE BEDROOMS
• FAM. BATHROOM
• ENCLOSED REAR GARDEN
• NO CHAIN
• ER = E
£105,000

NEW

HYWEL CRESCENT, BARRY
• SEMI DETACHED
• LIVING ROOM
• MODERN KITCHEN/BREAKFAST
• GROUND FLOOR BATHROOM
• THREE BEDROOMS
• DRIVEWAY/GARAGE
• ENCLOSED REAR GARDEN
• NO CHAIN
• (SOLD AS SEEN-NO SERVICES TESTED)
• EPC - E
£120,000

NEW

EVELYN STREET, BARRY
• MID-TERRACED BAY FRONTED
• LIVING/DINING ROOM
• THREE BEDROOMS
• FIRST FLR. BATHROOM
• WELL PRESENTED
• NO FORWARD CHAIN
• VIEWING ADVISED
• ER - D
£124,950

NEW

BRAMBLE AVENUE BARRY
• MODERN SEMI DETACHED
• LIVING ROOM
• KITCHEN/BREAKFAST
• REPLACEMENT BATHROOM
• DRIVEWAY WITH AMPLE PARKING
• ENCLOSED REAR GARDEN
• VIEWING ESSENTIAL
• ER=D
£142,950

NEW

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• GARAGE/PARKING IN BLOCK
• CUL DE SAC POSITION
• VIEWING ESSENTIAL
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• SEMI DETACHED WIMPEY CONSTRUCTED
• THROUGH LIVING ROOM
• FITTED KITCHEN
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• ER = C
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• FITTED KITCHEN, W.C. CLOAK
• LIVING ROOM, CONSERVATORY
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• STUNNING PRESENTATION
• MID TERRACED TRADITIONAL
• WALL REMOVED DINING AREA
• TWO SEPARATE REC ROOMS
• MODERN FITTED K ITCHEN
• TWO BEDROOMS
• FIRST FLOOR BATHROOM
• GARAGE - LANE ACCESS
• REFURBISHED THROUGHOUT
• ER = D
£121,950

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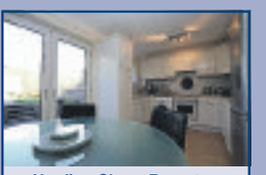

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Byron Court, Llantwit Major
2 Bedrooms
First Floor Flat
For the Elderly
£84,950 C76

Stag Lane, Llantwit Major
2 Bedrooms
West End Location
Off Road Parking
£164,950 F23

Llantwit Road, St Athan
3 Beds. En-Suite.
Driveway. Kitchen/Diner.
Show Home Standard.
£249,950 B83

Tyle House Close, Llanmaes
3 Beds. 2 Recps.
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£265,000 D56

Boverton Brook, Boverton
3 Beds. 2 Recps.
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Channel View, Marcross
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Driveway for 4 Cars.
Stunning Views.
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Daniel Hopkin Close, Llantwit Major
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3 Beds. 3 Recps.
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Fitzhamon Avenue, Llantwit Major
3 Bedrooms
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No Chain
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Shackleton Close, St Athan
3 Beds. Conservatory.
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£104,950 E42

Partridge Road, St Athan
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GCH 2016 Combi
No Chain
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103 Boverton Road
4 Bedrooms
2 Receptions
Detached Garage
£499,950 E55

Beggars Pound, St Athan
4 Bedrooms
198' Terraced Garden
Period Home
£315,000 F36

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4 Beds. 2 Recps
Annex. Triple Garage
Sought After Location
£495,000 E53

Fitzhamon Avenue, Llantwit Major
Building Plot
4 Beds, 2 Recps
Detached.
£89,950 tbc

Chris Davies

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Llantwit Major 01446 792020
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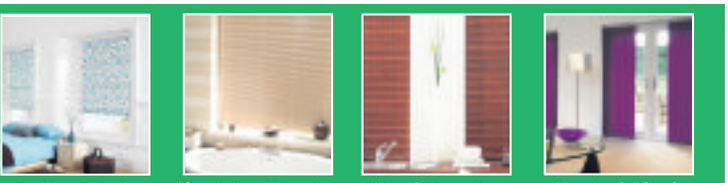
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LATEST NEWSPAPER SALES FIGURES!

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Penarth Times	4,132	Paid 50p
South Wales Echo	21,036	Paid 65p
Western Mail	20,007	Paid 80p
Glamorgan Gazette	9,094	Paid 90p
Wales on Sunday	16,060	Paid £1.50

The GEM's weekly figure includes door to door delivery and numerous popular outlets from Penarth to Porthcawl

Contact The GEM Classified Section on 01446 774484; or E-Mail Samantha at: samantha.miller@tindlenews.co.uk

Family Notices

MUMFORD
Vera

Passed away peacefully in Maesteg Hospital on 31st January 2016. Loving wife of the late John, cherished mum to Gillian, mother-in-law to Lyn and a beloved aunt.

Vera will be sadly missed by all her family and friends.

Funeral service to be held on Friday, 12th February 2016 in Coychurch Crematorium at 3.15pm. Family flowers only requested. Donations in lieu of flowers may be sent direct to Macmillan Cancer Support, Supporter Donations, Freepost, LON 15851, 89 Albert Road, London, SE1 7UQ or Wales Air Ambulance, Ty Elusen, Bay Studios Business Park, Fabian Way, Swansea, SA1 8QB.

All further enquires to Rosemount Funeralcare, 19 Coychurch Road, Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan, CF31 3AP. Tel 01656 653156.

HARRIS
Sylvia (Née Hillberg)

Peacefully on February 5 at College Fields Nursing Home, Sylvia, beloved wife of the late Glyn, much loved mum of Paul, Adrian and Robert. Special mother-in-law to Julie. Loving nan of Nicola.

She will be greatly missed by all her family and friends.

Sylvia is in the care of Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry until her service at their Windsor Road Chapel, Barry (opposite Mount Sorrel Hotel) on Thursday, February 18 at 1.45pm, followed by interment at Barry Cemetery. Donations if desired may be made at the service to Cancer Research and Diabetes UK.

FULLER
Iris Beryl

Peacefully at the University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff on January 31, Iris of Afan Close, Barry, but formerly of Penmark. Dearly beloved wife of the late Les, much loved mam of Lorraine, Melvin, David, Leslie, Yvonne and Pamela, mother-in-law of Ed, Helen, Lesley, Lynne, Dave and Brad, cherished nan to all her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son, Tynewydd Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry until her funeral service in the chapel on Monday, February 15 at 11am, followed by interment at Barry Cemetery at 12 noon. Flowers may be sent to the funeral.

Please wear an item of pink.

CORDY
Sheila

Peacefully on February 5 at Baltimore House Residential Home, Barry, Sheila, devoted wife of the late Brian, loving mum to Paul, Neil and Sian. Cherished nan and great nan to all her grandchildren. A dear special friend to Alf.

She will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her.

Sheila is in the care of Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry until her Requiem Mass at St Helens RC Church, Barry on Thursday, February 18 at 11am, followed by interment at Barry Cemetery. Family floral tributes only, donations if desired may be made at the service to The Alzheimer's Society in memory of Sheila.

The family wish to thank all at Baltimore House for their continued care and support shown.

CURTIS
Esther Elsie Mary

Peacefully on February 8 at Hazelhurst Nursing Home, Penarth. Esther Elsie Mary, aged 90 years, previously of Parkland Walk, Barry. Beloved wife of the late Douglas. A loved mother of Pam, John, David and mother-in-law of Jan, Lynn and the late Colin. Cherished grandmother of Sarah, Alex, Matthew, Becky, Victoria, Tom, great grandmother of Jessica, Mia, Oscar and Isobella.

Esther will be sadly missed by all of her family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry until the funeral on Thursday, February 18, service at All Saints Church, Barry, 12 noon, followed by Cremation at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road East, Barry at 1pm. Family flowers only, if desired donations may be handed to the funeral director after the funeral for RAFA Benevolent Fund.

CLARKE
Robert James

Peacefully on February 3, 2016 at Princess of Wales Hospital, Bob of Llantwit Major. Dearly loved husband of the late Dorrie and father of Peter, Liz and Roger. Grandfather to Harriet, Fraser, Oliver and Joshua.

Resting at W.A. Brown & Son, College Street, Llantwit Major, until the funeral service in St. Illtud's church on Thursday, February 18 at 12 noon, followed by cremation in Coychurch Crematorium at 1.15pm.

ADBY
Alan Gordon

Suddenly at home in Ewenny on Saturday, February 6, 2016, aged 85 years.

Devoted husband to the late Mavis, much loved father to Julie and the late Michael. Cherished father-in-law to Andy, grandfather to Jonathan and Emma, Katie and James, great-grandfather to Amelia, Isabelle and Oscar. Will be greatly missed by all. Particular thanks to wonderful neighbours Frank and Mrs Bill.

Resting at J.R. and M.F. David Funeral Directors, Ewenny Road, St Brides Major.

Funeral to be held at 1pm on Friday, February 19, 2016 at Ewenny Priory Church, followed by interment. Flowers may be sent to the Funeral Home.

HOWELLS
Ray (Mrs)

Peacefully on January 30, in hospital, Ray of Cowbridge (former teacher at Y Pant Comprehensive School). Beloved wife of the late Bill, loving mother of Michael and Ian, dear mother-in-law of Sarah and Rachel, and a much loved nanny of Kate, Megan, William and Carys.

Will be sadly missed by her family and friends.

Funeral Thursday, February 11, service at Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge at 12 noon, where friends please meet, followed by interment at The Limes Cemetery, Cowbridge.

Family flowers only, donations if so desired for Tenovus c/o W.H. Preene & Son, Mwyndy, Pontyclun, CF72 8PN. (Tel 01443 223368).

CLIFFTON-BENNETT
Edward John

Peacefully passed away on 29th January 2016 in the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, after a long brave battle. Ted, beloved husband of Margaret, devoted father, grandfather, great grandfather, brother, brother-in-law, uncle and kindest friend to all who knew him.

(A very gentle gentleman to all).

Funeral on Thursday, 11th February 2016. Service in Coychurch Crematorium at 12 noon. Family flowers only. Donations please to Ward 5, Princess of Wales Hospital Bridgend. Further enquiries to Adrian Oliver Funeral Directors, Bridgend. Tel 01656 665403.

Acknowledgements

CANN
Alasdair

The family of Alasdair are very grateful to, and would like to thank, all the staff of Bay View Lodge Nursing Home, the team from Ty Jenner and the Doctors of West Quay, for the tremendous care and love they have given to Alasdair.

ISAAC
Mary

Mary's family would like to thank everyone who attended the service at Bethesda'r Fro Church on February 1, and for the cards, flowers and messages of condolence.

A big thank you to the Rev Irfon James, Carole and Arthur of WA James & Son, Joan and Mary of Bethesda'r Fro; also the Rev Sue Fender, Angela and John for their help with the funeral.

Special thanks for looking after Mary, to the Vale Care Company, District Nurses and staff of Ward 11 of Princess of Wales Hospital. Diolch yn fawr.

CASTLE
Olive Jean (née Martyn)

Peacefully on February 1 at Forge Care Centre, Cardiff after a long illness. Olive Jean (née Martyn) aged 82 years. Previously of Aberystwyth Crescent, Barry. Dearly loved wife of Brian. A loved mother of Joanne and gran of William.

Jean will be sadly missed by all of her family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry. Funeral service and Committal at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road East, Barry where family and friends please meet on Monday, February 15 at 1pm.

Family flowers only. If desired, donations may be handed to the funeral director after the funeral for The Forge Care Centre Patients Fund.

McCORMACK
Douglas Stanley
1920 – 2016

Peacefully after a long battle with Parkinson's Disease at Picton Court, Porthcawl on Thursday, 4th February. Douglas, dearly loved husband of Margaret, devoted father of Linda and Celia. Father-in-law of Stuart and loving and proud grandad and great grandad, will be sadly missed.

Fuenral service at St John Baptist Church, Llanblethian on Thursday, 18th February at 1.15pm, followed cremation at Coychurch Crematorium. Immediate family flowers only, but if desired, donations in lieu would be appreciated for Parkinson's UK, 215 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London, SW1V 1EJ.

In Memory

LLOYD
My Dearest Michael

One whole year since we lost you.

No words can ever say how much you are loved & missed

You were kind and thoughtful and helpful to everyone you met.

Much love, Mum and all the family xxx

ANDREWS
Pauline

15 February 2015

Missing you always, but never love you any less.

Love always David x

JORDAN
Wendy (Née Youldon)

15th February

To our special little sister who would be 60 today.

We thought of you today,
but that is nothing new
We thought of you yesterday,
and will tomorrow too.

Love you always
Ann, Jane & families xxx

JORDAN
Wendy

15th February

Our dearest friend on your 60th Birthday
Wish you were here.

Loved and missed always
Glo & Sue xxx

STAVERT
Terry

Our hearts are still broken one year on 9th February
Sad are the hearts that loved you
Sad are the tears that fall
But living our lives without you
Is the saddest part of all
Love and miss you

Your loving wife Sylvia, Mark, Tracey, Lorna, Jon and all the grandchildren and great grandchildren.

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Birthdays

Public Notice

LYNETTE NEWMAN (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of Archway Cottage 24 High Street Cowbridge Vale of Glamorgan CF71 7AB, who died on 08/06/2014, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 15/04/2016, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.

GLAMORGAN LAW
68 Eastgate Cowbridge CF71 7AB

PETER RICHARD NEWMAN (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of Archway Cottage 24 High Street Cowbridge Vale of Glamorgan, who died on 25/07/2013, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 15/04/2016, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.

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LLEWELLYN JENKINS (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of Glan Yrys Colwinston Cowbridge Vale of Glamorgan, who died on 11/02/2015, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 22/04/2016, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.

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Public Notices

NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990, SECTION 257 AND PARAGRAPH 7 OF SCHEDULE 14
THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
(PUBLIC FOOTPATH NO 2 PORTHKERRY (PART)
PUBLIC PATH STOPPING UP ORDER 2015

On 26th January 2016 the Welsh Ministers confirmed the above order with modifications.

The effect of the order as confirmed is to stop up part of Public Footpath No 2 Porthkerry between a point south of the rail line in Rhoose (NGR 307050 166100) and the adopted highway, Trem Echni (NGR 307054 166009) as shown on the order map.

A copy of the confirmed order and order map may be seen free of charge at the Docks Office, Barry Docks, Barry, CF63 4RT during normal office hours. Copies of the order and map may be bought there at the price of £4.50.

This order comes into force on 11th February 2016 but if any person aggrieved by the order desires to question its validity or that of any provision contained in it on the ground that it is not within the powers of the above Act, or on the ground that any requirement of that Act or any regulation made under it has not been complied with in relation to the confirmation of the order, he or she may apply to the High Court for any of these purposes under section 287 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 within 6 weeks from the date on which notice is first published as required by paragraph 7 of Schedule 14 to that Act.

Dated 11th February 2016

Head of Regeneration and Planning
Docks Office, Barry Docks, Barry, CF63 4RT

RHYBUDD O GADARNHAU GORCHYMYN LLWYBR CYHOEDDUS
DEDDF CYNLLUNIO GWLAD A THREF 1990, ADRAN 257 A PHARAGRAFF 7 ATODLEN 14
CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG
(LLWYBR CYHOEDDUS 2, PORTHCERI (RHAN YN UNIG)
GORCHYMYN CAU LLWYBR CYHOEDDUS 2015

Ar 26 Ionawr 2016, cadarnhaodd Gweinidogion Cymru'r gorchymyn uchod a oedd yn cynnwys newidiadau.

Effaith y gorchymyn fel y'i cadarnhawyd, yw cau rhan o Lwybr Troed Cyhoeddus 2 Porthceri rhwng man sydd i'r de o'r rheilffordd yn Y Rhws (CGC 307050 166100) a phriffordd fabwysiedig, Trem Echni (CGC 307054 166009), fel y dangosir ar y map.

Gellwch weld copi o'r gorchymyn a gadarnhawyd a map y gorchymyn yn rhad ac am ddim yn Swyddfa'r Dociau, Dociau'r Barri, Y Barri, CF63 4RT, yn ystod oriau swyddfa arferol. Bydd copïau o'r gorchymyn a'r map ar werth yno am £4.50 yr un.

Daw'r gorchymyn hwn i rym ar 11 Chwefror 2016. Serch hynny, os bydd unrhyw un y mae'r gorchymyn yn ei dramgwyddo'n dymuno holi ynghylch ei ddilysrwydd, neu ddilysrwydd unrhyw ddarpariaeth sydd ynddo, un ai am nad yw o fewn grym y Ddeddf uchod, ynteu am na chydymffurfiwyd ag un o ofynion y Ddeddf, neu reoliad a wnaed o dani mewn perthynas â chadarnhau'r gorchymyn, caiff wneud cais i'r Uchel Lys i unrhyw un o'r dibenion hyn, o dan adran 287 Deddf Cynllunio Gwlad a Thref 1990, cyn pen 6 wythnos ar ôl dyddiad cyhoeddi'r hysbysiad gyntaf, fel sy'n ofynnol yn ôl paragraff 7, Atodlen 14 y Ddeddf honno.

Dyddiedig 11 Chwefror 2016

Pennaeth Adfywio a Chynllunio
Swyddfa'r Dociau, Dociau'r Barri, Y Barri, CF63 4RT

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

Glen Harry Haulage Ltd of Langcross Farm, Pen-y-Turnpike Rd, Dinas Powys CF64 4HG is applying to change an existing licence as follows. To add an operating centre to keep **2** goods vehicles and **0** trailers at **Langcross Farm, Pen-y-Turnpike Rd, Dinas Powys, CF64 4HG.**

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

Glen Harry Haulage Ltd of Langcross Farm, Pen-y-Turnpike Rd, Dinas Powys CF64 4HG is applying to change an existing licence as follows. To add an operating centre to keep **3** goods vehicles and **0** trailers at **Longlands Quarry, Corntown CF35 5BA.**

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

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2x2 seater leather setees. 1x2 seater fabric setee - manual recliner. Excellent condition. Colour beige. Buyer collects if possible. £200 ono. Items can be purchased seperately - price to be negotiaited.
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ADVERTISE HERE £12 inc. VAT - box for 2 weeks. To take advantage of this offer simply either send in your description along with a cheque for the appropriate amount made payable to 'The Glamorgan GEM' at The GEM, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or telephone us with your wording by 12 noon Tuesday. All major credit cards accepted. Tel 01446 774484. Advert must contain a residential land line telephone number. You may alter your advert as items are sold. **Sorry no refunds are given.**

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PICTURED: Lucia Cunningham, Lucy Newman, Mason Blackley; Ron Thomas, Keita Enfield. Jessie Blackley, Cian Allen, Joel Wells, Jake Quigley, Cody Jacobsen, Cameron Evans, Charlie Rogers, Thea Cunningham and Maddison Allen with their instructor.

Cadoxton Tae Kwon Do takes part in the English Championships

CADOXTON School of Tae Kwon Do took part in its first tournament of 2016 in Cheltenham, where over 500 competitors from all over the UK competed in the Global Tae Kwon Do International English Championships.

In the pattern categories, Keita Enfield took first place in the ladies' black belt, Charlie Rogers took a third in the junior green belt; while Jessica Blackley and Lucia Cunningham had a run-off for third place in the girls' red belt category, with Jessica taking third place.

Competing in the junior girls' green belt lightweight category, Charlie Rogers fought off all her competitors to take a well deserved first place. Young Maddison Allen and Thea Cunningham were in the same junior girls' lightweight blue belt category, Maddison just losing out, with Thea progressing through to the final – where she fought well to take the silver and second place.

In the girls' junior red belt middleweight category, Jessica Blackley fought her way into the final, coming away with silver. Not to be outdone by his little sister, Mason Blackley fought his way through the red belt heavyweight category eventually taking bronze medal.

Cameron Evans, competing in one of the largest categories on the day – the boys' red belt middleweight section – battled his way through each round to eventually come away with the bronze and third place.

In the junior boys' middleweight, black belts were Joel Wells, Cian Allen, Jake Quigley and, fighting up a category, Cody Jacobsen, who gave a good account of himself but was up against it in this larger category.

Jake and Cian went out in the earlier rounds, while Joel fought his way through to the final, coming away with the silver and second place.

Competing in the girls' black belt middleweight was Lucy Newman, who went through the rounds and came away with third place and the bronze.

Competing up a weight, Keita Enfield fought in the women's middleweight black belt category and had to fight hard to overcome some dubious judging, to eventually get third place.

The day ended on a special note with Keita Enfield (retaining her title for the third time) again the winner of the GTI 2014/15 Ladies Black Belt Grand Prix. This prestigious award was presented to her by the undefeated world heavyweight champion, Master Tony Sewell.

RT

Keita Enfield, Grand Champion.

Blast from the past – 1998

ON AND OFF THE TURF with Brian Lee

BRIAN LEE, who is celebrating 50 years of reporting on the Welsh hunt-racing scene, this week takes a look back to the time the Llangeinor Hunt staged their annual point-to-point for the first time at Laleston and under the heading 'GEM Correspondent Tips 33-1 Winner', this is what he reported:

The Llangeinor Hunt staged their annual point-to-point over a new course at Laleston near Bridgend, on Saturday (May 2), and officials are to be congratulated on getting the course ready at such short notice after losing their usual course at Margam.

The viewing was more than satisfactory from both fields and, with a few improvements, such as the resiting of the numbers' board and a roped area from the last fence to the winning post, the course can be improved upon for next year. One rider summed up the three circuit course as "a typical Welsh track."

However, local rider Tim Vaughan (18) , who had never ridden a double before, let alone a treble, will always have happy memories of the track as he scored a hat-trick on *Cairneymount* (members), *Abbey Waters* (maiden division one) and *Mountain Slave* (maiden division three).

Local farmer Bill Howells admitted to winning £2,000 on his mare *Mountain Slave* who was finishing a race for the first time in six starts!

Another shock winner was *Willchris* who delayed the start of the confined race but, when he was persuaded to line up made all the running to give 17-year-old Ebbw Vale schoolboy Greg Richards his first winner.

Willchris's win was no surprise to your correspondent as, when interviewed by BBC Wales's Owen Money before the race, I had told him to back it. A delighted Owen told me later that he did, and won £66!

Llandow's Bob Mason had his first win as a trainer when his mare *Bit Of A Citizen*, took the men's open race. Ridden by the Vale's Evan Williams, *Bit Of A Citizen* scored by five lengths from *Sun Of Chance*.

Pip Jones rode her 19th winner of the season on *High Guardian* in the intermediate. Owned by Ian Brice of St Hilary, *High Guardian* was winning for the fourth time this season.

In the ladies'open race, Keith Pearce's *Ozzie Jones* made it three wins in a row with his daughter Lucy aboard.

I also reported that *Saffron Moss,* owned and trained by former Cowbridge rider Ross Farr and his wife Shan, was a shock 33-1 winner of the Dunraven Bowl South and West Wales point-to-point champion hunter chase at Chepstow on April 21.

Those few punters who backed *Saffron Moss* on the tote were rewarded with odds of 106-1!

Mr Farr won the Welsh point-to-point riders' championship on one occasion and Mrs Farr who, as Shan Morgan, rode Wales' most famous point-to-pointer, *Mandryka*.

In the 1970s, *Mandryka* won 44 races, including a hunters' chase at Chepstow with Cowbridge's John Llewellyn in the saddle.

For the record, *Saffron Moss* was ridden by the Vale' s Fiona Wilson, who was a Welsh champion point-to-point rider.

You can e-mail your horse racing memories, stories or pictures to brianlee4@virginmedia.com or telephone him on 02920 736438.

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COTTRELL PARK CLUB LANDS MAJOR AWARD!

Picture by Steve Pope.

COTTRELL PARK Golf Resort has been named '2015 Future Financials Welsh Golf Club of the Year' at the Golf Union of Wales annual awards ceremony at Celtic Manor Resort.

The resort, which celebrates its 20th anniversary this year, was awarded the honour because of its diversity, outstanding customer service and commitment to the environment.

The ambitious club has seen over 20,000 golf visitors in the past 12 months, an increase of two per cent on the previous year, due to its development and expansion of wide-ranging leisure facilities.

There have been 27 weddings and six wedding fayres, firmly establishing the resort as a an elegant venue for weddings with award winning cuisine.

Cottrell Park Resort also hosts corporate parties and team building events, attracting a wider demographic of visitors to experience the vast facilities.

While the club prides itself on being a welcoming resort that doesn't alienate local guests and tourists, it keeps the traditions and etiquette of golf at its heart.

Head greenkeeper, Paul Morgan who has already celebrated his own personal 20th anniversary as a valued employee of Cottrell Park, has seen the club grow from its inception in the mid 1990s to the two 18-hole championship-maintained golf courses on offer today.

Derek Smith, general manager, was delighted with the accolade: "This is the result of many years of hard work by each and every person at the resort, and I couldn't wait to go back and let everyone know.

"We aim to be accessible to all but 40 years in this industry has taught me that it is equally important to remain loyal to our members and this award proves that the team of staff we have here have delivered on every level.

"I'd also like to thank the owners of the resort David and Jonathan Johns-Powell for their continued support, their vision and their willingness to always invest in the resort"

Customer service has been a high priority at the resort which Smith attributes much of the resorts success to.

Barrivale Bridge Club results

LATEST results from Barrivale Bridge Club for February 2:

1st Kay Dyer & Mike Close 64.29%; 2nd Debbie & Simon Richards 58.33%; 3rd Huw & Celia Thomas 55.95%. Dave Reed and Bryn Gough won on handicap.

The 2015 team winners were Irene Thomas, Jenny Vaughan, Mike Best and Mike Close (*pictured above*).

New members are always welcome at Barrivale. A partner may be arranged if required. If you would like to join us ring 01446 418380 or 01446 733425 or 01446 735592 call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm.

DR

Brynhill ladies' teams look back over a busy year of golf

Brynhill Golf Club ladies' team captains at the dinner.

BRYNHILL Golf Club ladies section has three successful teams, all competing in the Glamorganshire and Monmouthshire ladies county golf league.

On Thursday, the teams of 2015 got together at their club for a celebratory dinner with the ladies' captain, Mrs Liz Fine.

The team captains, Mrs Sam Pascoe (first team) Mrs Rose Pitman (second) and Mrs Carole Bumford (third) duly paid for all the drinks as a 'thank you' to the members for their commitment over the past year. A fun night was had by all.

LT

The teams at the county netball tournament.

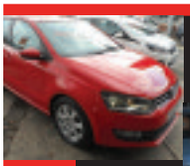
Cowbridge Comp girls selected for county and national squads

CONGRATULATIONS to the following pupils who were selected to represent Cardiff and the Vale in the recent County Netball tournament - a fantastic achievement, well done girls!

Under-14 - Bethan Edwards, Frankie Coates, Helena McCormack; under-16 - Annabel Hegarty and Selina Radcliffe

Also, congratulations to Daisy Connolly in year 9, who was been selected to attend the Wales National under-15 football camp on February 9-10 - we wish her well.

Follow The GEM's dedicated sports Twitter feed - *@sport_gem*



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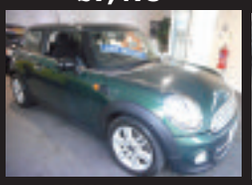

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In Fuchsia red, 39,000 miles, low insurance
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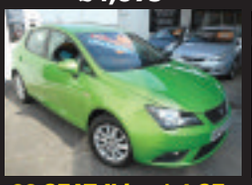
In electric blue, sought after model with panoramic roof
£5,295



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62 KIA Picanto 1.0 5-Dr
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REDUCED BY £500 TO **£4,495**

62 PEUGEOT 208 1.4 Active 3-Dr
In metallic purple, 16,000 miles, low insurance
£6,995

13 MAZDA 2 TS 1.3TS 5-Dr
In red, 17,000 miles, 1 owner, £30 road tax
£6,495

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09 **HONDA Civic 2.0 Type R** In black, 49,000 miles, sports hatch at **£7,995**
54 **MERCEDES SLK 200 Auto** In silver/black leather, 58,000 miles, superb convertable at **£7,695**
62 **SUZUKI Swift 1.2 SZ4 5-Dr** In black, 16,000 miles, 1 owner, high spec **£7,495**
12 **FORD Fiesta Titanium TDCi 70 1.4cc** In silver, 36,000 miles, alloys, bluetooth **£7,495**
64 **MG3 3 Style 1.5 VTi 5-Dr** In yellow, 3,000 miles with a/c alloys etc ..... REDUCED TO **£6,995**
13 **KIA Venga '2' Automatic 1.6 5-Dr** In black, 37,000 miles, 1 owner **£6,995**
62 **FORD Fiesta 1.4 TDi Zetec 3-Dr** In white, 49,000 mile new shape diesel at **£6,995**
62 **PEUGEOT 208 1.4 Active, 3-Dr** metallic purple, 16,000 miles, low insurance **£6,995**
12 **SKODA Roomster 1.6 TDi SE Plus** In black, 39,000 miles, 1 owner ..... REDUCED BY £500 TO **£6,995**
60 **VAUXHALL Astra 1.6 SE Automatic 5-Dr** In met grey, 35,000 miles **£6,995**
10 **VW EOS 2.0 TDi Individual** In red with black leather, fantastic value diesel convertible at **£6,995**
59 **VW Golf Plus 1.4 TSi SE** In silver, 50,000 miles, host of extras, superb example **£6,995**
61 **VAUXHALL Insignia 1.8 Exclusive** In silverlake, 43,000 miles, 1 owner **£6,795**
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10 **VAUXHALL Astra 1.6 SE 5-Dr** In met blue, 68,000 miles, 2 owners **£5,495**
61 **FORD Fiesta 1.4 TDi Edge Econetic 5-Dr** In silver, 71,000 miles, fantastic MPG & free road tax **£5,495**
59 **FORD FIESTA 1.2 Zetec 5-Dr** In met-blue, 54,000 miles with a/c etc **£5,495**
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58 **VW Polo 1.4 TDi 5-Dr Match** In silver, 38,000 miles, low running costs **£4,995**
09 **VW Polo 1.2 Match 5-Dr** In black, 52,000 miles, low running costs **£4,795**
58 **MAZDA 6 TS2 Diesel 2.0 5-Dr** In met-black, 74,000 mile family hatch **£4,795**
12 **RENAULT Twingo Dynamique 3-Dr 1.1cc** Fuchsia red, 39,000 miles, low insurance **£4,695**
62 **KIA Picanto 1.0 5-Dr** In black, 41,000 miles, 1 owner, free-road-tax ..... REDUCED BY £500 TO **£4,495**
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Barry to face Barry in chess encounter!

IT is always nice to see players returning from a sabbatical, no matter how long it may be.

I noticed that this week Tom Davies played his first match for almost two years for Bridgend Central. He becomes the third Tom Davies to play this season with the others representing North Cardiff and St John's College in the Minor League.

For the Barry Chess Club, there was only one match to consider this week. In division one, our two teams, the Bosons and the Camelots met.

This produced an interesting dilemma for team captain Ken Hannah. A big victory for the Bosons would enhance their chances of finishing in third place.

A big victory for the Camelots would enhance ever so slightly the meagre chance that the Camelots have of avoiding relegation.

This however is Barry. We are never ones to take the easy route. The teams were selected with three matches that should be close but the Bosons were expected to win on the top two boards to win the match reasonably narrowly. As I said this is Barry.

The top three boards were drawn. John Stephenson for the Camelots took board 5 so the outcome of the match rested on board 4.

Although the Camelots held an advantage in a long drawn-out game, Stephen Bonutto ran out the winner for the Bosons when his opponent's flag fell. So the match was drawn.

Honours even but this really doesn't do much good for either team – still there is always next week.

The Barry Chess Club meets at 7.30pm each Monday at the West End Club. St. Nicholas Road, Barry CF62 6QY. The club is open to players of all standards; whether you are interested in playing competitive chess or just the occasional friendly games.

New players are very welcome to just turn up on the night but if you contact one of the club members through the website we can explain what is happening on the night you have in mind, and arrange for someone to greet you on your arrival.

For more details visit our website at http://barrychessclub.yolasite.com.

PHIL JONES

Champ Maisie (14) inspires gymnasts

THE YMCA Barry's female competitive gymnastics squad had an exciting visitor to help with their training last week.

Maisie Methuen (14) is one of Britain's most promising gymnasts, who even at this young age has had huge success.

This includes becoming the 2014 British Espoire Champion, the 2015 British Junior Silver medallist, the 2015 Welsh Junior Champion and even winning a historic silver medal for her beam routine at the European Youth Olympics.

Maisie, with all this experience and knowledge, certainly inspired the YMCA Barry gymnasts to progress further.

Maisie spent the session coaching and passing on her specialist knowledge to help improve skills.

The gymnasts also had the opportunity to ask Maisie questions about her experiences (they even got a little demonstration!).

YMCA Barry would like to say a big 'thank you' to Maisie. All the gymnasts finished the session truly inspired by Maisie's achievements and determined to improve their own gymnastic skills.

All the YMCA Barry gymnasts are looking forward to prove they are a force to be reckoned with in 2016.

YMCA Barry offers a range of classes for boys and girls from toddler classes to elite levels in male, female and rhythmic gymnastics all delivered by very qualified coaches. We are also expanding our activities to now include cheerleading as well adult gymnastics for all abilities.

This is a great way to have fun and keep fit! If you would like more information about any of our classes please ring 01446 724000, or email sophie@ymcabarry.org.uk.

SE

CHARITY SEVENS EVENT IN BARRY

BARRY Comprehensive School is getting set to host the largest cross border sevens tournament in Wales this year.

The tournament will be held on Sunday, February 28 at Barry Rugby Club on Merthyr Dyfan Way and will see 32 of Britain's best under-13 school teams competing.

The rugby starts at 10.15am with the four finals scheduled for 4pm, and the day should provide an excellent level of competition.

Proceeds from the day will go towards the school's Sri Lanka charity appeal as well as helping fund the school's rugby programme.

The club will be open all day with refreshments and food available and the bar will also be open.

"We are very excited about this event and hope to get a lot of supporters attending," said Dai Manley, the tournament organiser.

"Barry Rugby Club have been extremely helpful in letting us use their facilities and local businesses New Broad Street Motors and the Macron Sportstore, Cardiff, have been fantastic with sponsorship of the event."

Teams are coming from as far afield as Devon, Doncaster and Sutton Coldfield to take part, as well as Cardigan, Llandovery and Monmouth, so we have representatives from all over the country, not to mention local sides Barry Comprehensive, Ysgol Bro Morgannwg and Cowbridge.

Entry on the day is £3 for adults and £1 for children and all members of the public are welcome to come and watch top class school rugby.

DM

The Barry and District league results and tables

CRIB DIVISION 1:

West End 8, Moors Boys 7; West End Runaways 7, Liberals 8; Wyndham Cons 6, Rhoose Social 9.

League table: Wyndham Cons 119, West End 118, West End Runaways 112, Liberals 105, Rhoose Social 97, Cadoxton Cons 93, Moors Boys 91.

SKITTLES DIVISION 1:

Sea View B 6, Allsorts 1; Rugby Club 6, Cambrian Flyers 1; Rhoose Social C 5.5, Liberals C 1.5; West End D 0.5, Rhoosters 6.5; Liberals A 6, Rhoose Social B 1; Barries Boys 3, Rhoose Social A 4; West End C 5, Slammers 2.

League table: Sea View B 76, West End D 69, Rugby Club 63.5, King William XII 59.5, West End C 55, Rhoose Social B 54, Barries Boys 53.5, Liberals A 50, Slammers 49.5, Allsorts 46, Rhoosters 46, Rhoose Social A 44.5, Rhoose Social C 43, Liberals C 36.5, Cambrian Flyers 31.

SNOOKER DIVISION 1:

HarbourB 4, CaddyAllstars 1; Rhoose Social C 1, Wyndham Cons A 4; Cadoxton Cons Z 4, Market Street C 1; Rhoose Social B 0, Cadoxton Cons B 5; West End C 1, Savoy A 4.

League table: Harbour B 65, Savoy A 63, Cadoxton Cons B 47, Wyndham Cons A 47, West End C 43, *Cadoxton Cons Z 39, Rhoose Social C 32, Rhoose Social B 30, Caddy Allstars 28, Market Street C 25, Penarth Cons B 22.

SNOOKER DIVISION 2:

Sully Sports A 2, Market Street B 3; Cadoxton Cons A 2, Services Social B 3; Savoy B 3, Wyndham Cons C 2; Liberators 3, West End A 2; West End B 3, Wyndham Cons D 2.

League table: Liberators 55, Penarth Cons A 50, Services Social B 50, Market Street B 49, Savoy B 49, Wyndham Cons C 39, Cadoxton Cons A 39, West End A 33, Sully Sports A 32, West End B 30, Wyndham Cons D 24 (* = points deducted).

All league and cup fixtures and results at www.barryleagues.co.uk and on Facebook - search for 'barry leagues'.

JW

Follow The GEM's dedicated sports Twitter feed - @sport_gem

Cowbridge darts league round-up

ON Tuesday February 2, an interesting evening of league darts was played.

The Edmondes B beat the Old Post Ladies 8-1 to strengthen their hold on top stop, while in the chasing pack the Highwayman Inn took over second place from Llanharry by beating them 6-3.

In the other games the Six Bells Inn beat the Edmondes A 8-1 and the Farmers Arms beat the Edmondes C 7-2. The Farmers B (H&H) did not have a game.

The league standings are: Edmondes B (65 points), Highwayman Inn (61), Llanharry (57), Edmondes A (53), Farmers Arms (52), Six Bells Inn (49), Edmondes C (45), Farmers B (H&H) (34) and Old Post Ladies (16).

Next Tuesday, February 16, the completion of the Clive Blick trophy on January 26, means that no matches are scheduled.

All matches start at 8.15pm and spectators are welcome. For further information e-mail Paul at cowbridgedarts@gmail.com, up-to-date information can be found on the website: www.darts.apsn.co.uk.

PJT

Evan's Oscar winner!

LLANCARFAN trainer Evan Williams saw his nine-year-old bay gelding *Oscar Sunset* land the two-miles novices' chase at Chepstow last Friday.

Partnered by 5lb claimer Conor Ring, *Oscar Sunset* won by three-and-a-quarter lengths from the favourite *Baltimore Rock*.

This was Evan's 22nd winner over the last five years at Chepstow and only English trainers Philip Hobbs and David Pipe have saddled more.

There are 126 entries for this year's Grand National in April and Evan, whose great ambition is to win the world's greatest steeplechase, has entered three of them - they are *Buywise, Aerlite Supreme* and *Firebird Flyer*.

BRIAN LEE

John Barnes' Penarth visit

LIVERPOOL FC and England legend John Barnes was recently in the Vale, starring in a sports dinner held at the Vale Sports Arena in Penarth supporting PG10 Coaching.

Hundreds of guests where given opportunities to learn about Barnes' career achievements and he told stories from a successful professional football career and offered an insight into the successful Liverpool sides he played for – and also his opinions on the 1990 World Cup in Italy.

Further sports dinners are planned with sporting names attending the Vale Sports Arena including Craig Bellamy, Andrew Cole and Paul Gascoigne.

All events are at the Vale Sports Arena and guests will enjoy a three course meal, auctions, games, Q&A, guest speakers and much more.

For tickets please email info@valesportsarena.co.uk.

PG

Meeting date arranged

THE pre-season meeting of Llantwit Major lady bowlers will now be held on Monday, March 7 at 10am.

All members are requested to attend, or send their apologies to the secretary.

If you would like to join or find out more about the opportunities of learning to bowl, please come along.

CW

BARRY AND DISTRICT LADIES SKITTLES LEAGUE

LATEST results for January 11:

First division: SV Gals (J Richard 35) 288, Special Angels (C Wills, P Grisdale 31) 295; Bobby's Girls (P Martin 31) 268, Space Finders (K Jackson, R Whyman, D Cleaver) 275; Colcot Ladies (K Taylor, H Edwards 23) 247, Coppers (L Tiley 30) 270; Breakaways (N Smith 33) 317, Baker's Dozen (S Davis 32) 324; Barry Stars (C Lambeth 39) 312, Cigar Ladies (K Richards 32) 336; Family Affair (J Walden 30) 277, Castle Bandits (D Collard 27) 241; Allsorts (J Jones 26) 246, Family and Friends (J Jones, C Matthews 27) 258.

Second division: Pila Palas (A William 38) 330, Cad Con Fillies (T Clemwood 34) 338; Rhoose Ravers (I Birkenhead 26) 244, Castaways (D Thomas 28) 229; Witchill Widows (S Murray 35) 317, Vixens (T Curnick 36) 302; SV Lights (D Thomas 29) 255, Little Devils (T Evans 27) 248; Witchill Weebies (S Davies 36) 344, Rhoose Starlights (K Bryan 33) 310; Clickies (K Watts 30) 310, After Eights (A Mepham, A Jackson 27) 264; Merry Makers (C Hawker 24) 206, Red Admiral (M Selby 26) 197.

Third division: Rugby Triers (K Brooke 25) 202, Hill Billies (E Anzani 24) 226; Etcetera (C Mackintosh 28) 247, Persuaders (G Hughes 26) 255; Airways Angels (B Gibbs, A Crook 24) 245, Westenders (G Somers 24) 232; Divas (G Gouvier 23) 237, La Belles (S Davies 27) 237; Twilights (A Campbell, C Brown 23) 210, Fallen Angels (C Jones 27) 233; Dolly Mixtures (K Rideout 26) 235, Friends and Neighbours (B Nicholls 22) 172; SV Ladies (K Lacny, C Griffiths 29) 263, Roller Coasters (G Giles 34) 329.

Fourth division: Guardian Angels (S Aston, H Marshall 26) 231, Challengers (A Beales 28) 239; Odd Bods (Jackson 30) 256, Witchill Wanderers (C Morrissey 29) 221; Aristocats (C Chatwell, S Bebb 21) 193, Rebels (J Farr 24) 220; Nite Outers (K Stillman, J Davies, C Mitchem, L White 23) 206, Uptown Girls (K Richardson 25) 226; Hell Raisers (J Rosser 25) 239, Off The Rails (L McCormack 26) 238; Witches (O Weighall 27) 250, Liberals (F Williams, P Schembri 22) 132.

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SIX NATIONS RUGBY

Frustration as Ireland are let off the hook

Stirring fightback, after sloppy start snuffs out Grand Slam hopes

WALES CAN GET BACK ON THE CHAMPIONSHIP TRAIL AGAINST HURTING SCOTS

Prop Rob Evans helped to shore up a Welsh scrum that laid the foundations for a Welsh fightback.

Pictures from the Huw Evans Agency.

Rhys Priestland, above, played a starring role after Wales lost Dan Biggar. Hopefully, he has now silenced so-called Welsh fans who have shamefully jeered him in the past.

BACK PAGE COMMENT

by Don John

THERE have been hints trickling out from the Wales camp for some time that a subtle change may be in the air – that criticism of Welsh attacking play and, in particular, its relatively sparse try count, with such rugby gurus as Graham Henry and Nick Mallett now joining in the debate – had finally begun to touch a nerve among the management.

Rightly or wrongly, the perception has grown that while a widely-acclaimed, unyielding defence is the team's acknowledged strong point, the same cannot really be said of the attack, which for whatever reason, and despite a world class backline, rarely fulfils its undoubted true potential.

This was highlighted during the Rugby World Cup at Twickenham last autumn, when despite being encamped with the ball near the opposing try line for long minutes on end, the inability of an admittedly weakened Welsh team to break away and conjure up an attacking movement to stretch a 13-man Australian defence, cost them a place in the semi-final.

Before Wales set off for their opening Six Nations clash in Dublin at the weekend, former South African coach Mallett observed: "*Wales might be able to boast the best backline in the championship, but for me, they appear to be routinely wasting them…Wales would rather build their scores through penalties, instead of trusting their skills and being creative with the ball in their hands*."

Former Wales and All Blacks' head coach Henry agreed: "*The (Welsh) guys try to use their brawn, rather than brains – and are not putting it together as an attacking unit*."

It stung Wales' attack coach, Robert Howley, into admitting: "*We have to be more ruthless and clinical … that's the challenge of international rugby … and we have to score more tries*."

A welcome sign that the message may be getting through, came on Friday evening, when the Wales under-20 team pointed the way for the seniors by outscoring their Irish counterparts by four tries to two in a thrilling 35-24 victory – after being given a licence by their coaches to play 'a fast and attacking style of rugby'.

The question was, would that also be the approach of the near full-strength senior team, hotly favoured against a triple championship-chasing Irish side on Sunday, whose turn it now was to be depleted – lacking several first choice players through injury, and without their retired, inspirational leader Paul O'Connell.

In view of this, most pre-match pundits had made a more settled, seasoned Wales side laden with caps, clear favourites to overcome a first hurdle on the way to a possible championship bid of their own – a tag which once upon a time did not sit easy with men in red more accustomed to being perennial underdogs (the '70s superstar era excepted, of course!)

This may also no longer be the case with Warren Gatland's Wales in 2016, but what is still a factor is the mystifying slowness out of the blocks that has proved costly for so many Welsh teams' hopes in past campaigns – and came perilously near to doing so again on Sunday. For it was the 'underdogs' in green who typically took the battle to Wales from the outset, forcing infringements that saw the impeccable boot of outside half Johnny Sexton punish them with two penalties that took them into a six-point lead barely 10 minutes from the kick-off.

They went on to totally dominate the early exchanges – the Irish pressure capped by a sniping try by scrum half Conor Murray, converted by Sexton, which gave them a commanding 13-0 lead and threatened to take them out of sight before the game was even 20 minutes old.

To make matters worse, outside half maestro Dan Biggar had been injured and hobbled from the field. He was replaced by former Scarlet Rhys Priestland, who, thankfully, had reversed his decision to retire from international rugby after he crossed the Severn to Bath.

He overcame a shaky start to play a pivotal role (literally) in a Welsh fight-back that began up front, with the forwards slowly beginning to exert control at the set-piece, with young loose-head, Rob Evans, fully vindicating head coach Gatland's decision to start him ahead of veteran Gethin Jenkins (who came on as the weighty Welsh replacements bench emptied in the second half).

The reward came three minutes before half time when following intense pack pressure, Dragons' No 8 Taulupe Faletau broke away from a slightly messy scrum five metres out and barged over for a touchdown, easily converted by Priestland, to add to a penalty minutes earlier, which amazingly brought Wales to within just three points of the Irish and a halftime score of 13-10.

Two minutes after the restart, Priestland failed with a snap drop goal attempt, but was successful with a penalty that brought the teams level at 13-13, after Jonathan Davies, who was back from injury to renew a potent centre partnership with the outstanding Jamie Roberts, had sent green defenders scrambling back with a neat chip through to touch.

A lineout then led to the happily born-again Priestland landing a third penalty that took Wales into a 16-13 lead for the first time – with just seven minutes to go on the clock.

Ireland, though, showed they were not finished yet, and back from the wilderness wing Tom James was forced to make a try-saving tackle; while returning full back Liam Williams, who had a surprise late call-up to replace the injured Gareth Anscombe, also played his part as Wales battled grimly to hang on to their slender lead.

However, in the end it was all to no avail as Sexton's accurate boot brought them level at 16-16, when a Welsh forward was penalised for straying offside, and after Priestland's last-gasp drop goal attempt failed, the final whistle blew. In a no-holds-barred contest, in which both sides had defended manfully to the point of exhaustion, both Gatland and his opposite number, fellow Kiwi Joe Schmidt, reluctantly agreed that a draw was probably a fair result.

The day before, a strangely-garbed French team had huffed and puffed to edge out Italy by the slenderest of margins (23-21) in Paris, but should be found out by an Ireland side determined to get their championship defence back on track this weekend.

Meanwhile, in Edinburgh, a methodical, but hardly new-look England side did what was needed to defeat a tame Scottish challenge (15-9), and will expect to rack up points against Italy to continue their mini revival under new Aussie head coach, Eddie Jones, after the World Cup humiliation which cost the job of their former coach.

In contrast, the wounded Scots will be desperate to pick themselves up and show that their World Cup heroics were no flash in the pan when they face Wales in Cardiff on Saturday at the newly-renamed Principality Stadium (kick-off 4.50pm).

However, they will be up against a frustrated Welsh camp kicking themselves for letting the very real prospect of a fourth Grand Slam and a Triple Crown slip through their fingers in the Dublin rain – and the Scots can now expect a torrid backlash, with Wales reasserting their claim for the 2016 championship in the first of three home matches that give them the perfect opportunity to redeem themselves.